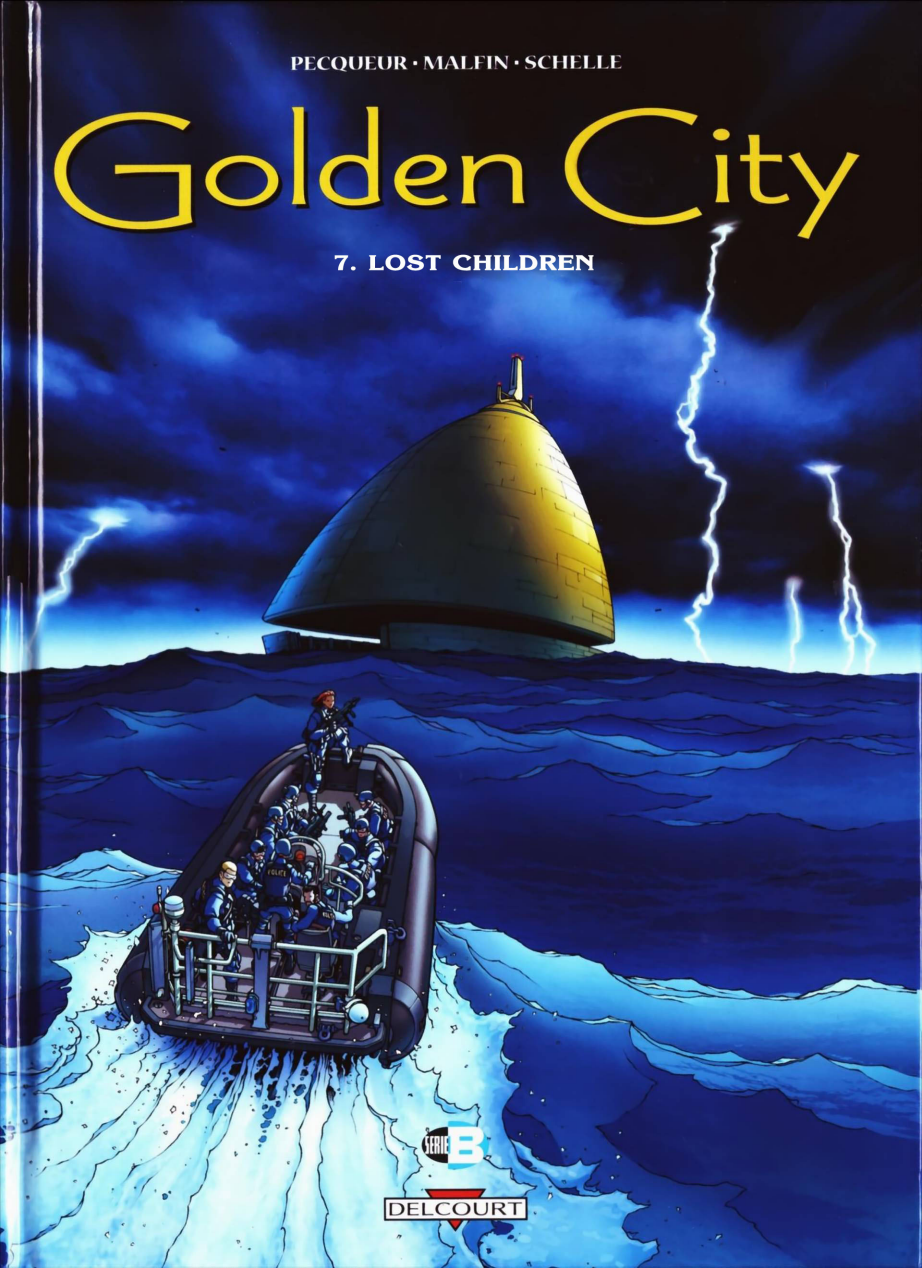
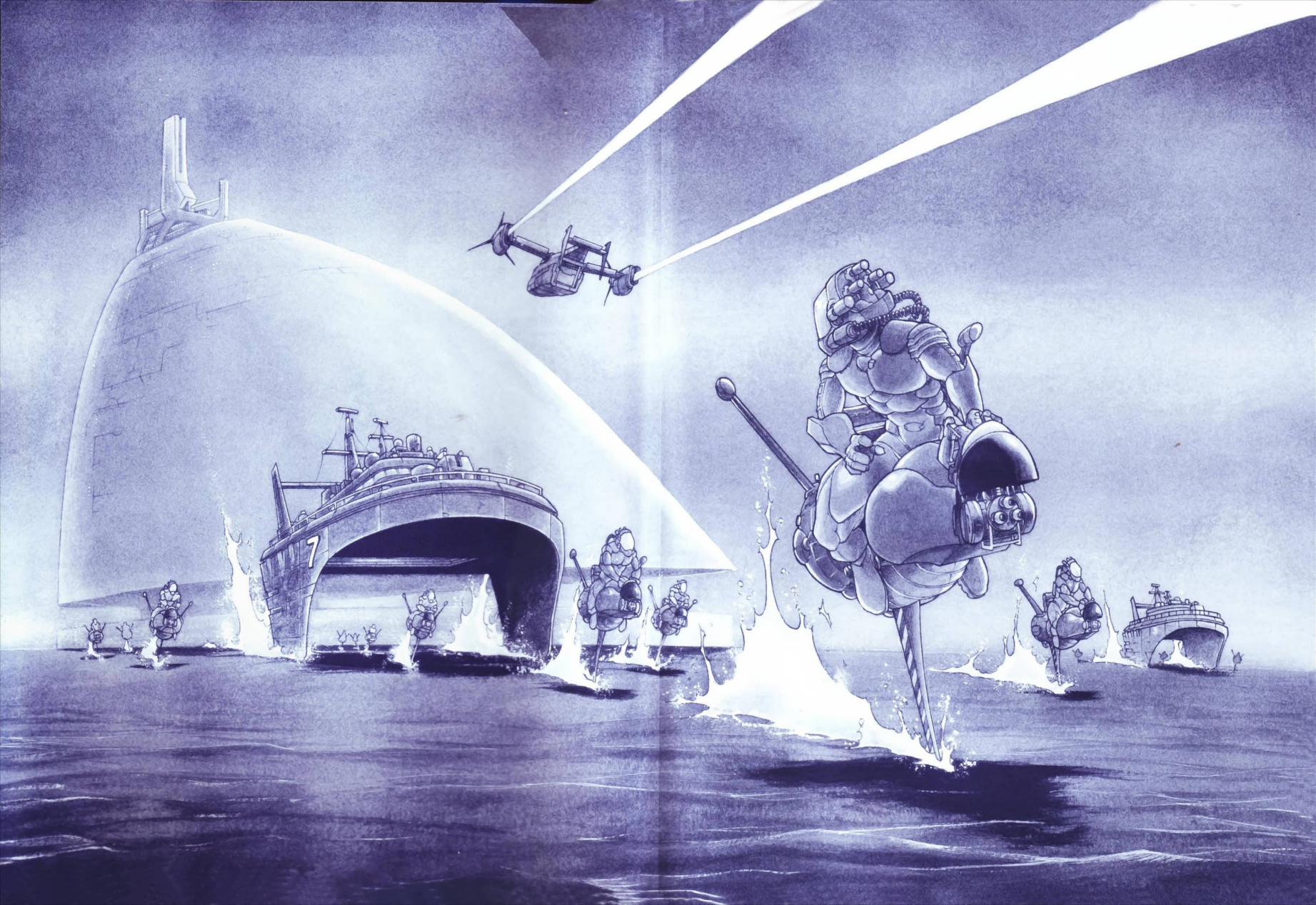
PECQUEUR · MALFIN · SCHELLE

Golden City

7. LOST CHILDREN



SERIE B
DELCOURT



Golden City

7. LOST CHILDREN

Scenario
Daniel PECQUEUR

Art
Nicolas MALFIN

Colors
Pierre SCHELLE

DELCOURT

Merci à toute l'équipe Delcourt et à l'équipe Delsol.
D. P.

À mes parents, pour m'avoir plongé tout petit dans la marmite magique de la BD,
à Isabelle, Nathalie et Laurent,
à Maëva et Romain, avec ma plus grande tendresse,
à Jérôme et Boris, mes frères d'âmes,
à tous mes amis qui m'ont soutenu,

à Elodie...

Nicolas

Dans la même série :
Tome 1 : Pilleurs d'épaves
Tome 2 : Banks contre Banks
Tome 3 : Nuit polaire
Tome 4 : Goldy
Tome 5 : Le Dossier Harrison
Tome 6 : Jessica
Tome 7 : Les Enfants perdus

Dans le même univers :
• Golden Cup (trois volumes) - scénario de Pecqueur, dessin de Henriet

Du même scénariste, chez le même éditeur :
• Tao Bang (deux volumes) - coscénario de Vatine, design de Blanchard, dessin de Cassegrain
• Angela - coscénario et dessin de Vatine

Aux Éditions Petit à Petit :
• La Cour des grands (trois volumes) - collectif, vol.2 avec Malfin
• Poèmes de Victor Hugo en BD - collectif
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Chez Dargaud Éditeur :
• Cargal (quatre volumes) - dessin de Formosa
• Thomas Noland (cinq volumes) - dessin de Franz
• Marée basse - dessin de Gibrat

Aux Éditions Icer :
• Les Méandres de l'Histoire (l'histoire de Rouen en BD)

Label dirigé par Fred Blanchard et Olivier Vatine

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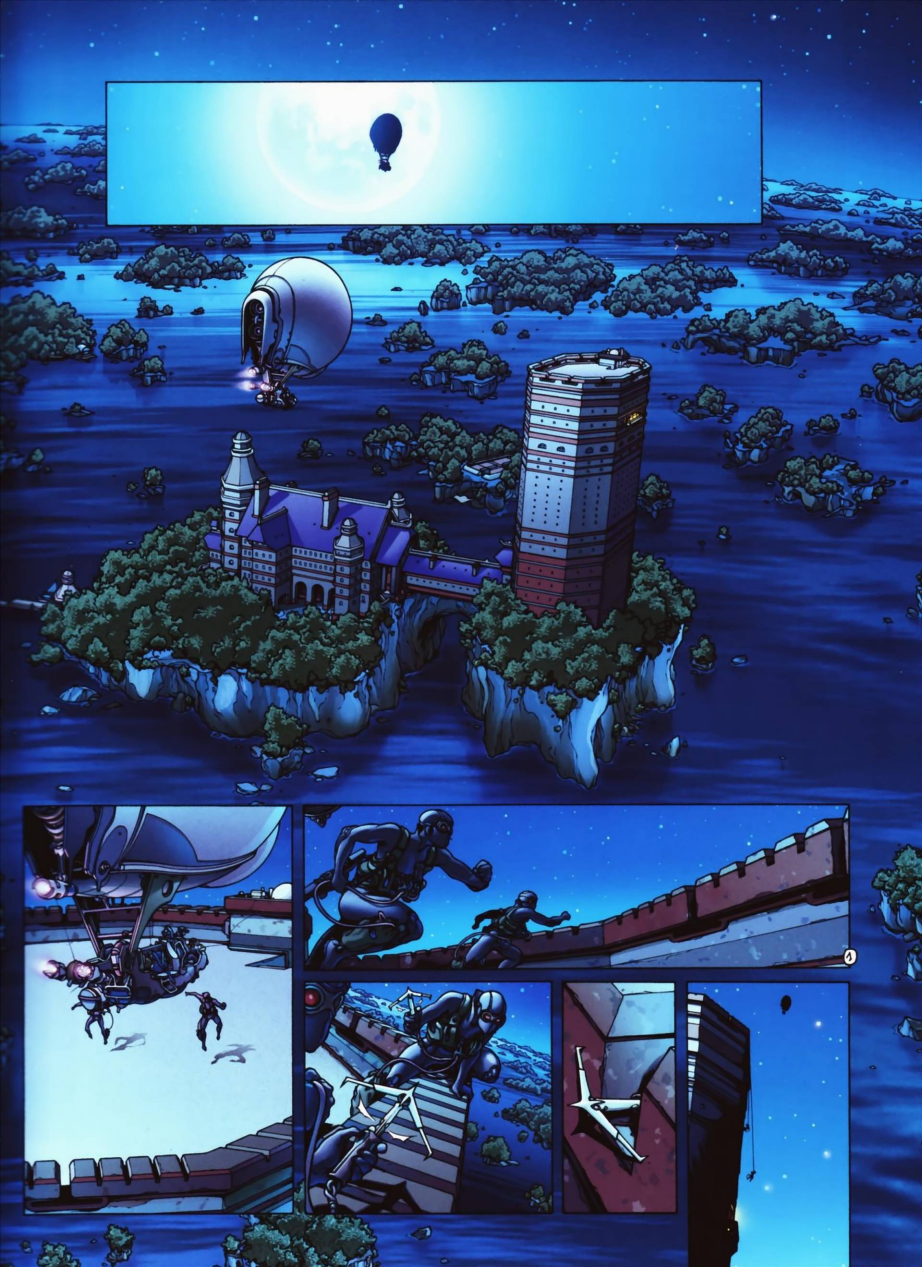
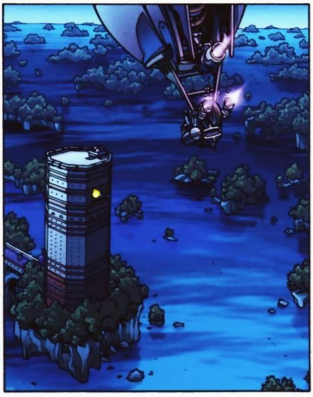
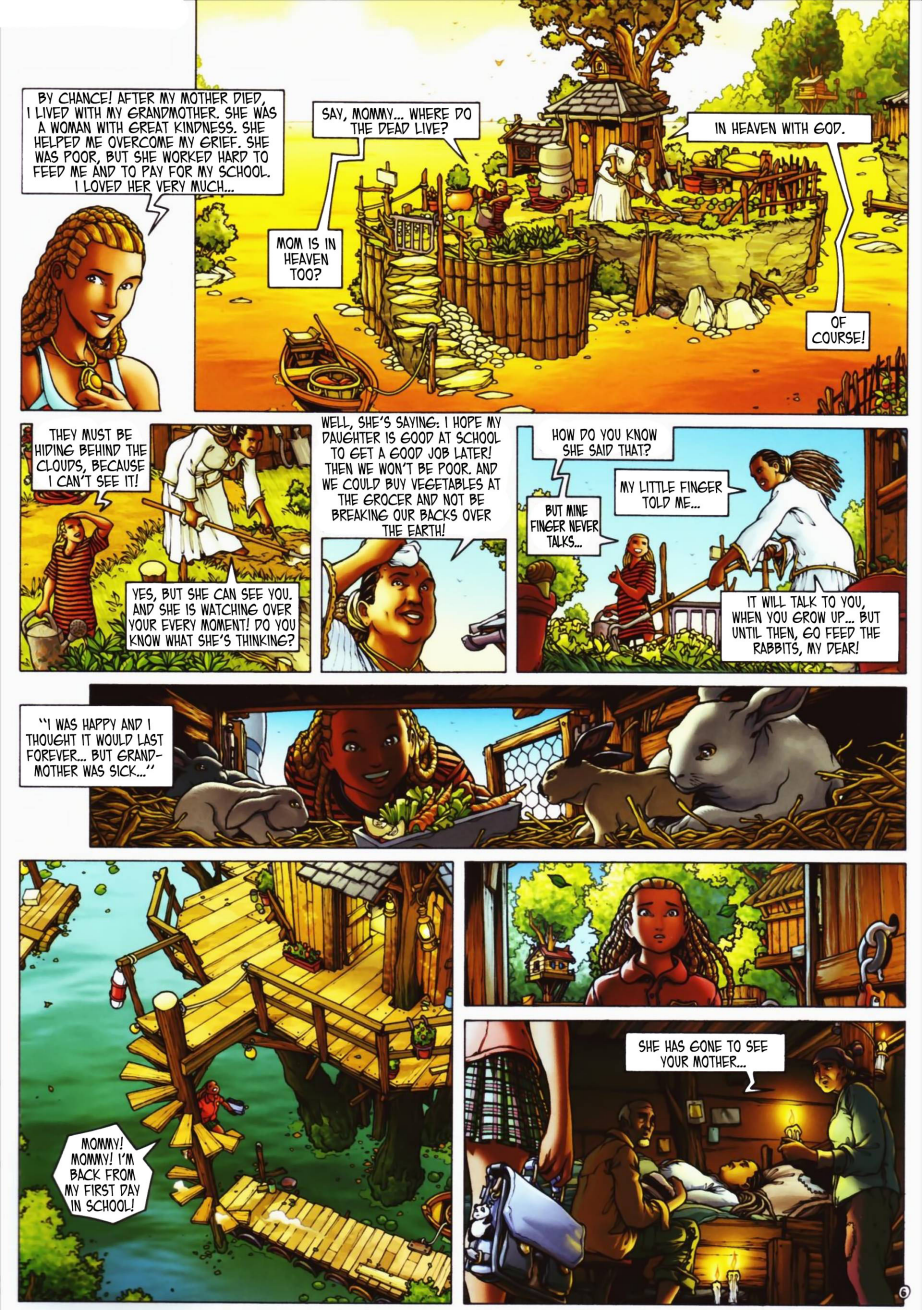
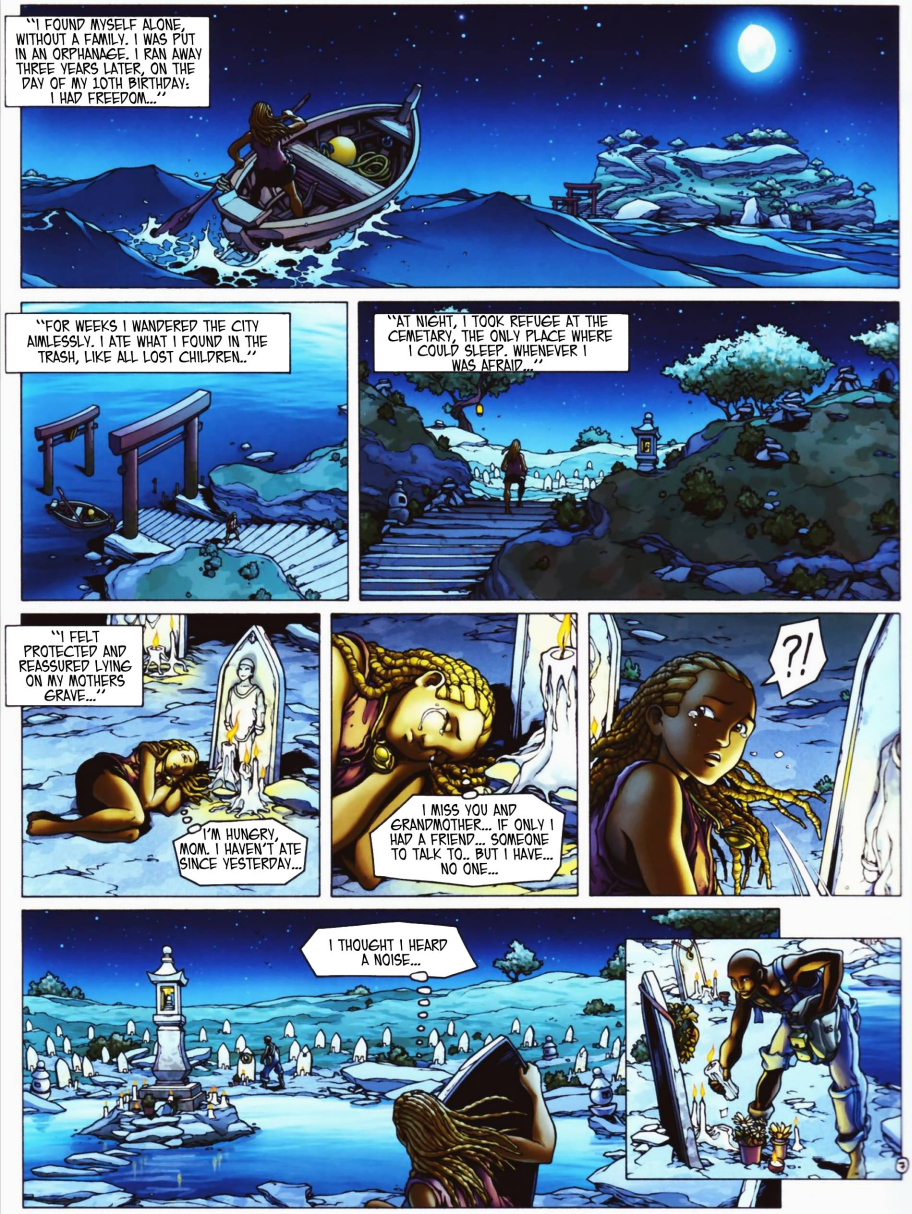




CLING CLING CLING
CLING CLING CLING
TO THE TABLE! IT'S READY!
GET UP, BOYS! THE COCOA IS GETTING COLD!
CLING CLING CLING
SHE NEVER GETS TIRED OF THAT BELL! MAKE IT STOP!
IF YOU PULL TO HARD, YOU'RE GOING TO BREAK IT!
I DON'T MIND IF I BREAK IT, BECAUSE WE WON'T BE USING IT ANYMORE!
WHY WON'T WE USE IT ANYMORE?
BECAUSE NOW WE'RE GOING TO LIVE IN GOLDEN CITY! ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MIFA?
YES. THIS IS OUR LAST BREAKFAST HERE...
I LIKED IT HERE, IT WAS OUR HOME... IT WILL BE SAD TO LEAVE IT FOREVER!
ME TOO! WE'RE TOO ATTACHED TO THIS PLACE: IT'S FULL OF MEMORIES!
SINCE WHEN DID YOU LIVE HERE?
FIVE YEARS. BUT SOLO, APPLE AND ME KNEW EACH OTHER BEFORE.
HOW DID YOU MEET?


BY CHANCE! AFTER MY MOTHER DIED, I LIVED WITH MY GRANDMOTHER. SHE WAS A WOMAN WITH GREAT KINDNESS. SHE HELPED ME OVERCOME MY GRIEF. SHE WAS POOR, BUT SHE WORKED HARD TO FEED ME AND TO PAY FOR MY SCHOOL. I LOVED HER VERY MUCH...
SAY, MOMMY... WHERE DO THE DEAD LIVE?
IN HEAVEN WITH GOD.
MOM IS IN HEAVEN TOO?
OF COURSE!
THEY MUST BE HIDING BEHIND THE CLOUDS, BECAUSE I CAN'T SEE IT!
YES, BUT SHE CAN SEE YOU. AND SHE IS WATCHING OVER YOUR EVERY MOMENT! DO YOU KNOW WHAT SHE'S THINKING?
WELL, SHE'S SAYING: I HOPE MY DAUGHTER IS GOOD AT SCHOOL TO GET A GOOD JOB LATER! THEN WE WON'T BE POOR. AND WE COULD BUY VEGETABLES AT THE GROCER AND NOT BE BREAKING OUR BACKS OVER THE EARTH!
HOW DO YOU KNOW SHE SAID THAT?
BUT MINE FINGER NEVER TALKS...
MY LITTLE FINGER TOLD ME...
IT WILL TALK TO YOU, WHEN YOU GROW UP... BUT UNTIL THEN, GO FEED THE RABBITS, MY DEAR!
"I WAS HAPPY AND I THOUGHT IT WOULD LAST FOREVER... BUT GRAND-MOTHER WAS SICK..."
MOMMY! MOMMY! I'M BACK FROM MY FIRST DAY IN SCHOOL!
SHE HAS GONE TO SEE YOUR MOTHER...


"I FOUND MYSELF ALONE, WITHOUT A FAMILY. I WAS PUT IN AN ORPHANAGE. I RAN AWAY THREE YEARS LATER, ON THE DAY OF MY 10TH BIRTHDAY: I HAD FREEDOM..."
"FOR WEEKS I WANDERED THE CITY AIMLESSLY. I ATE WHAT I FOUND IN THE TRASH, LIKE ALL LOST CHILDREN..."
"AT NIGHT, I TOOK REFUGE AT THE CEMETARY, THE ONLY PLACE WHERE I COULD SLEEP. WHENEVER I WAS AFRAID..."
"I FELT PROTECTED AND REASSURED LYING ON MY MOTHERS GRAVE..."
I'M HUNGRY, MOM. I HAVEN'T ATE SINCE YESTERDAY...
I MISS YOU AND GRANDMOTHER... IF ONLY I HAD A FRIEND... SOMEONE TO TALK TO.. BUT I HAVE... NO ONE...
?!
I THOUGHT I HEARD A NOISE...

DIRTY THIEF!!!
?!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT? YOU NEARLY KILLED ME! WHY DID YOU THROW A ROCK AT ME?
BECAUSE YOU'RE STEALING FROM THE DEAD! YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED! IT'S FORBIDDEN!
WELL, NO ONE NEVER COMPLAINED!
IT'S A SIN TO DO THAT! YOU'LL GO TO HELL!
PLEASE! THAT'S BULLSHIT! HELL DOES NOT EXIST!
IT DOES EXIST! YOU'LL BURN IN FLAMES AND SUFFER!
I CAN'T SUFFER WHEN I'M DEAD: I WON'T FELL ANYTHING!
WHY ARE YOU STEALING THE CANDLES?
BECA-USE I'M HUNGRY!
YOU... YOU EAT THEM?

NO, STUPID! I SELL THEM TO THE CRAFTSMAN! I GET SOMETHING TO EAT FOR A DAY OR TWO, HE'S NICE!
NO, NOT THOSE! THIS IS A GRAVE OF MY MOTHER...
OH, SORRY! I DIDN'T KNOW...
YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN...
NOW I KNOW. I PROMISE, I'LL NEVER TAKE HER CANDLES.
"I REALIZED THEN, THAT I WAS WRONG ABOUT HIM: HE WASN'T BAD. HE WAS SWEET AND SENSITIVE. I THOUGHT MY MOTHER PROBABLY SENT HIM FOR ME, SO I'M NO LONGER ALONE, AND I NEVER WILL BE AGAIN..."
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MIFA. AND YOU?
SOLO.
HOW DID YOU COME HERE? BY SWIMMING?
NO, I HAVE A BOAT... I'VE HIDDEN IT OVER THERE, BEHIND THOSE ROCK, SO NOBODY CAN SEE ME. I'LL GO GET IT.
DON'T BOTHER! WE CAN BOTH LEAVE IN THIS ONE!
WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
FROM SOMEONE. IT BELONGED TO MY GRANDMOTHER.

"FROM THAT MOMENT ON, SOLO AND I WERE INSEPERABLE. THAT'S WHAT SAVED US. WE FELT STRONGER TOGETHER, COMFORTED EACH OTHER. WE PROBABLY COULDN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT EACH OTHER..."
I AM A LOST CHILD THAT HIS OLD ONES ABANDONED, DURING THE NIGHT I SLEEP AND DURING HE DAY I BEG TO EAT
OPEN YOUR HEARTS SIRS AND LADIES, ME AND MY LITTLE BROTHER ARE ORPHANS...
EL ASESINO
TACOS
BATH

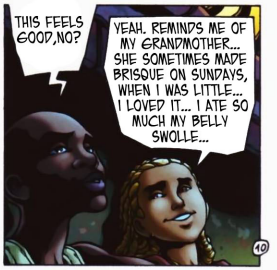
HEY YOU! LITTLE ONE!
?

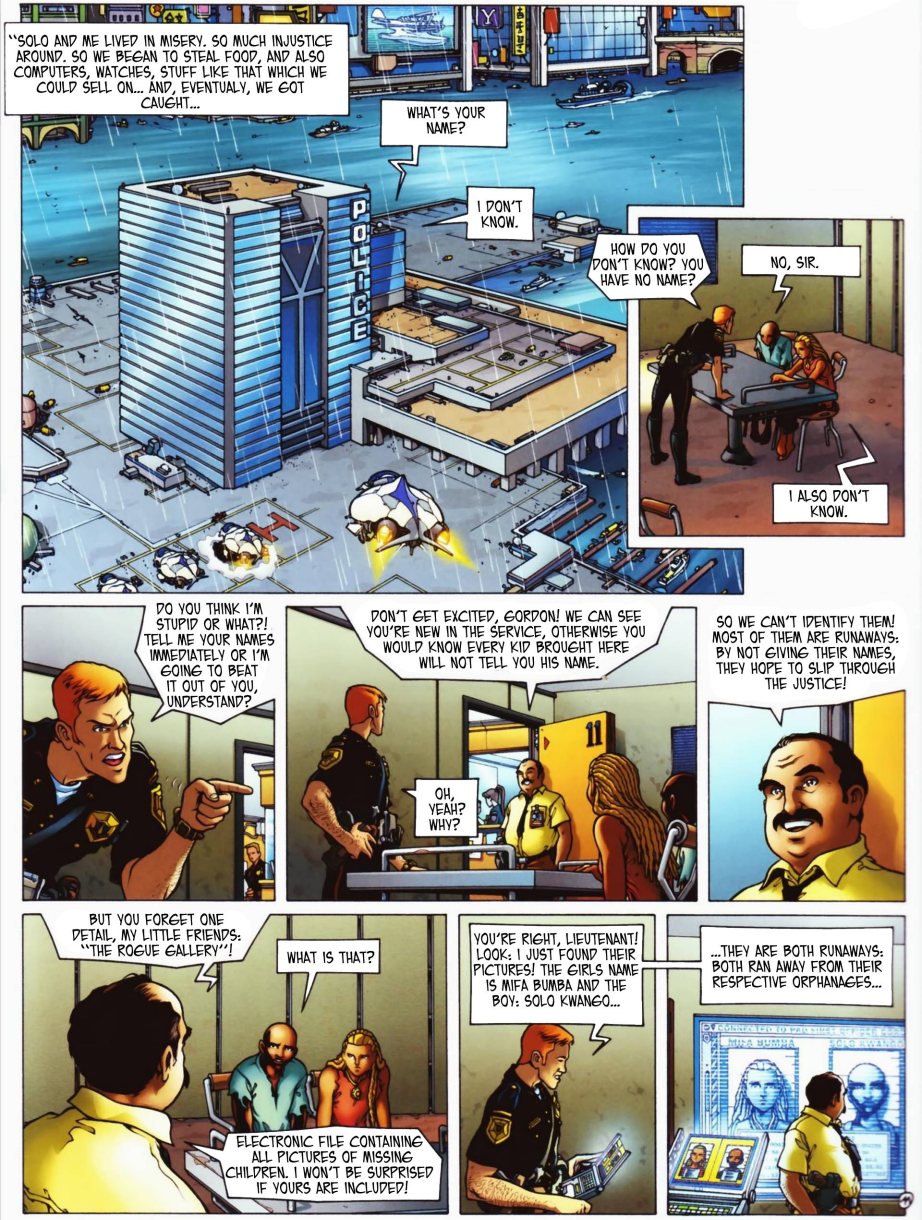
I GIVE YOU ON ONE CONDITION: TELL YOUR BROTHER TO GO BARK SOMEPLACE ELSE, HE'S BREAKING OUR EARS!

"BARKING"! HE'S AN ASSHOLE WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT MUSIC!
CHEER UP! LOOK: HE GAVE ME 30 DOLLARS! THAT'S REALLY NICE! WE'LL BE ABLE TO EAT FOR A WEEK!

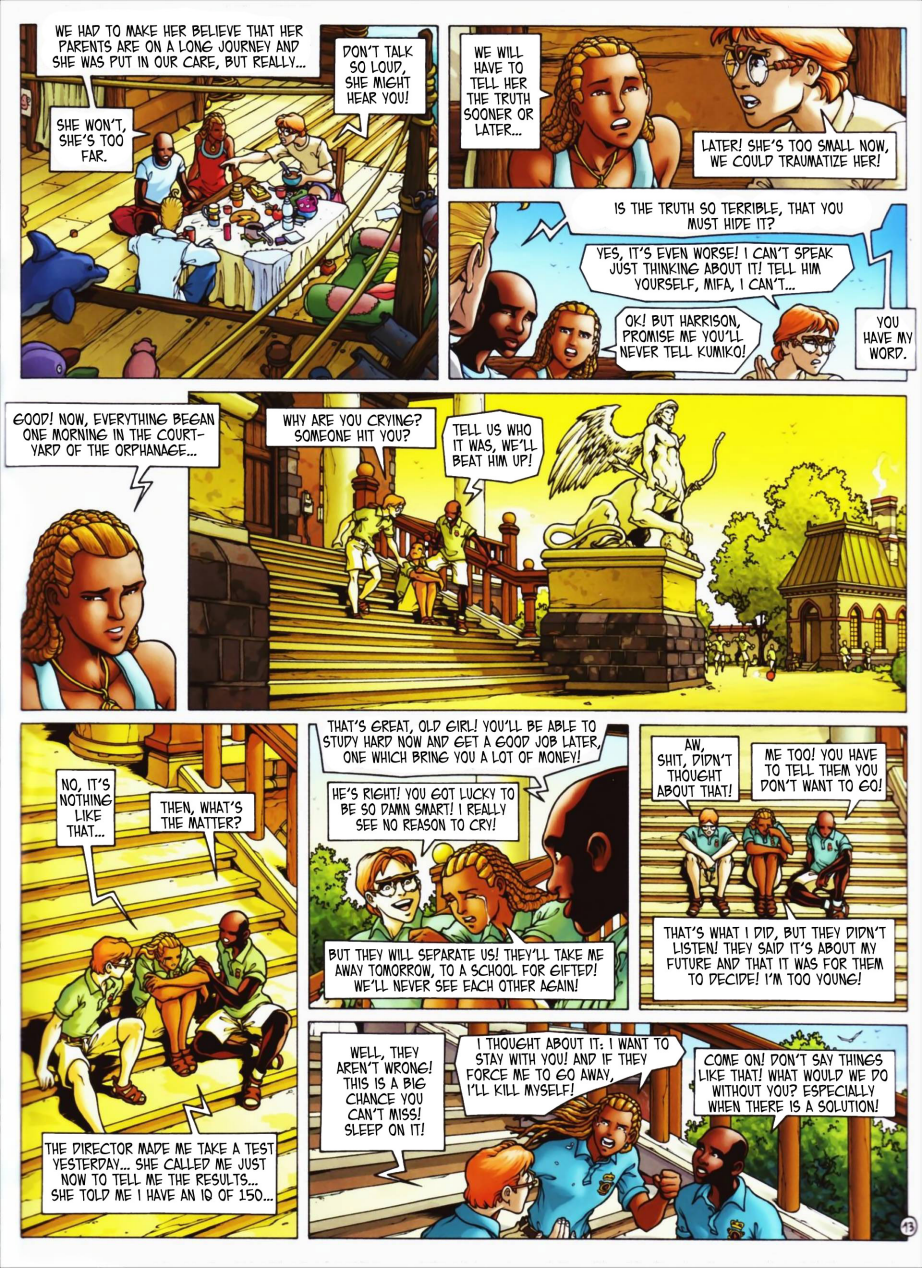
"BUT LUCK WASN'T ALWAYS SMILING ON US AND WE WOULD SOMETIMES LIVE FOR DAYS ON EMPTY STOMACH..."
EAT, AGATHA, IT'S GETTING COLD...
I DON'T LIKE SOUP!

"TO DECEIVE OUR HUNGER, WE WENT UPTOWN WHERE WE COULD INHALE THE AROMA FROM THE RICH PEOPLE DINNERS..."
THIS IS NOT SOUP, AGATHA, IT'S BISQUE! IT'S EXCELLENT! HERE, TRY IT. OPEN YOUR STATION!


THIS FEELS GOOD,NO?
YEAH. REMINDS ME OF MY GRANDMOTHER... SHE SOMETIMES MADE BRISQUE ON SUNDAYS, WHEN I WAS LITTLE... I LOVED IT... I ATE SO MUCH MY BELLY SWOLLE...

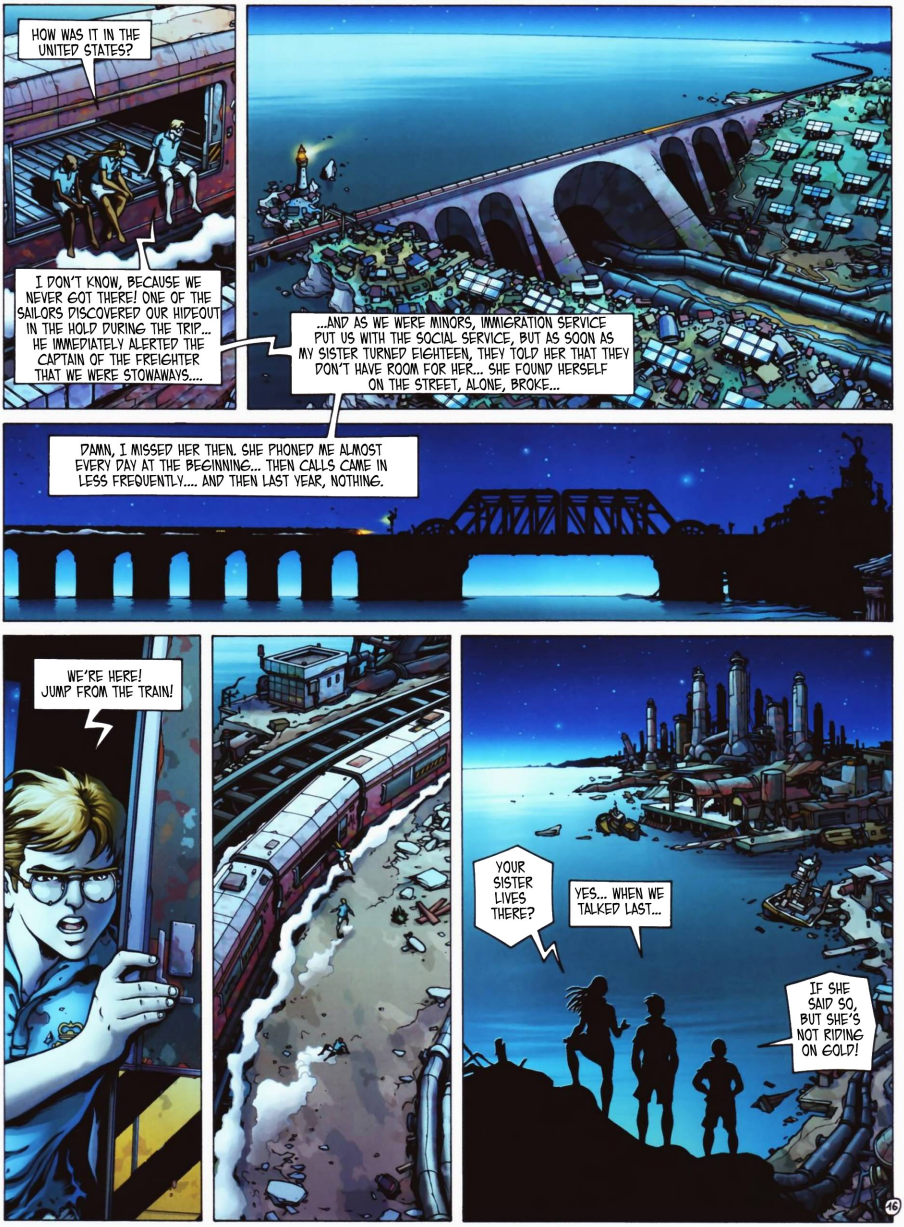

"SOLO AND ME LIVED IN MISERY. SO MUCH INJUSTICE AROUND. SO WE BEGAN TO STEAL FOOD, AND ALSO COMPUTERS, WATCHES, STUFF LIKE THAT WHICH WE COULD SELL ON... AND, EVENTUALY, WE GOT CAUGHT...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I DON'T KNOW.
POLICE
HOW DO YOU DON'T KNOW? YOU HAVE NO NAME?
NO, SIR.
I ALSO DON'T KNOW.
DO YOU THINK I'M STUPID OR WHAT?! TELL ME YOUR NAMES IMMEDIATELY OR I'M GOING TO BEAT IT OUT OF YOU, UNDERSTAND?
DON'T GET EXCITED, GORDON! WE CAN SEE YOU'RE NEW IN THE SERVICE, OTHERWISE YOU WOULD KNOW EVERY KID BROUGHT HERE WILL NOT TELL YOU HIS NAME.
11
OH, YEAH? WHY?
SO WE CAN'T IDENTIFY THEM! MOST OF THEM ARE RUNAWAYS: BY NOT GIVING THEIR NAMES, THEY HOPE TO SLIP THROUGH THE JUSTICE!
BUT YOU FORGET ONE DETAIL, MY LITTLE FRIENDS: "THE ROGUE GALLERY"!
WHAT IS THAT?
ELECTRONIC FILE CONTAINING ALL PICTURES OF MISSING CHILDREN. I WON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOURS ARE INCLUDED!
YOU'RE RIGHT, LIEUTENANT! LOOK: I JUST FOUND THEIR PICTURES! THE GIRLS NAME IS MIFA BUMBA AND THE BOY: SOLO KWANGO...
...THEY ARE BOTH RUNAWAYS: BOTH RAN AWAY FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE ORPHANAGES...
MIFA BUMBA
SOLO KWANGO

KWANGO? I KNEW SOMEONE WITH THAT NAME...
A THIEF?
NO, A COP. BEST IN TOWN. WITH INTEGRITY, COURAGE, ALL RESPECTED HIM. HE LED THE SPECIAL SQUAD.
THAT WAS MY FATHER...
YOUR...YOUR FATHER?!
YES... HE WAS MURDERED BY DRUG DEALERS AND MY MOTHER DIED SOON AFTER THAT...
LOOK, SOLO, I HAD GREAT ADMIRATION FOR YOUR FATHER. HE TOUGHT ME THIS JOB. OUT OF RESPECT FOR HIM, I CAN'T LET YOU WANDER OUT THERE, YOU KNOW? YOU MUST RETURN TO THE ORPHANAGE AND RESUME YOUR STUDIES, AGREED?
NOT WITHOUT MIFA!
OK! I'LL MANAGE TO KEEP YOU TOGETHER! BUT YOU MUST PROMISE ME NOT TO RUN AWAY!
I PROMISED, AND THE POLICE LIEUTENANT KEPT HIS WORD: HE PLACED ME AND MIFA IN THE SAME ORPHANAGE, AND THERE WE MEET APLLE.
AND KUMIKO? YOU MEET HER THERE TOO?
NO, WE FOUND HER LATER.
FOUND HER?! HOW?


WE HAD TO MAKE HER BELIEVE THAT HER PARENTS ARE ON A LONG JOURNEY AND SHE WAS PUT IN OUR CARE, BUT REALLY...
DON'T TALK SO LOUD, SHE MIGHT HEAR YOU!
SHE WON'T, SHE'S TOO FAR.
WE WILL HAVE TO TELL HER THE TRUTH SOONER OR LATER...
LATER! SHE'S TOO SMALL NOW, WE COULD TRAUMATIZE HER!
IS THE TRUTH SO TERRIBLE, THAT YOU MUST HIDE IT?
YES, IT'S EVEN WORSE! I CAN'T SPEAK JUST THINKING ABOUT IT! TELL HIM YOURSELF, MIFA, I CAN'T...
OK! BUT HARRISON, PROMISE ME YOU'LL NEVER TELL KUMIKO!
YOU HAVE MY WORD.
GOOD! NOW, EVERYTHING BEGAN ONE MORNING IN THE COURTYARD OF THE ORPHANAGE...
WHY ARE YOU CRYING? SOMEONE HIT YOU?
TELL US WHO IT WAS, WE'LL BEAT HIM UP!
NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT...
THEN, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THE DIRECTOR MADE ME TAKE A TEST YESTERDAY... SHE CALLED ME JUST NOW TO TELL ME THE RESULTS... SHE TOLD ME I HAVE AN IQ OF 150...
THAT'S GREAT, OLD GIRL! YOU'LL BE ABLE TO STUDY HARD NOW AND GET A GOOD JOB LATER, ONE WHICH BRING YOU A LOT OF MONEY!
HE'S RIGHT! YOU GOT LUCKY TO BE SO DAMN SMART! I REALLY SEE NO REASON TO CRY!
BUT THEY WILL SEPARATE US! THEY'LL TAKE ME AWAY TOMORROW, TO A SCHOOL FOR GIFTED! WE'LL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN!
AW, SHIT, DIDN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THAT!
ME TOO! YOU HAVE TO TELL THEM YOU DON'T WANT TO GO!
THAT'S WHAT I DID, BUT THEY DIDN'T LISTEN! THEY SAID IT'S ABOUT MY FUTURE AND THAT IT WAS FOR THEM TO DECIDE! I'M TOO YOUNG!
WELL, THEY AREN'T WRONG! THIS IS A BIG CHANCE YOU CAN'T MISS! SLEEP ON IT!
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT: I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU! AND IF THEY FORCE ME TO GO AWAY, I'LL KILL MYSELF!
COME ON! DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT! WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT YOU? ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE IS A SOLUTION!

WHICH ONE?
WE MUST GET AWAY FROM HERE, SO THEY CAN'T FORCE YOU TO DO ANYTHING!
"THIS IS WHAT WE DID: WE RAN AWAY IN THE DARK WHEN EVERYONE WAS SLEEPING..."
"WE RAN FOR HOURS... WE WANTED TO PUT AS MUCH DISTANCE AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN ORPHANAGE AND US..."
I'M DONE! TOO TIRED TO GO ON!
ME TOO! AND I'M SCARED OF RATS!
I SAW A LADDER DOWN THERE! WE CAN GET OUT!
WE CAN'T STAY OUTSIDE FOR LONG WITHOUT BEING FOUND BY THE COPS! WE SHOULD HIDE, BUT WHERE?
MY SISTERS HOUSE!
YOU HAVE A SISTER? THAT'S A NEW THING! WHY DIDN'T YOU NEVER TALK ABOUT HER? WHAT IS HER NAME?
LESLIE.
HOW OLD IS SHE?
TWENTY YEARS.

WHAT IS SHE LIKE? BLONDE? BRUNETTE? SEXY WITH BIG TITS?
FUCK YOU, ASSHOLE!
JUST TELL ME, WHAT IS SHE LIKE! IS SHE WELL ROUNDED? YES OR NO?
SHUT UP OR I'LL HIT YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU CRAZY OR WHAT?
STOP, APPLE! LET HIM GO, HE WAS JUST JOKING!
DON'T LAUGHT ABOUT IT! MY SISTER IS A GOOD GIRL! I RESPECT HER! SHE SAVED MY LIFE!
REALLY? WHEN?
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, DURING THE WATER WARS... WE LIVED IN AFRICA AT THE TIME... OUR PARENTS WERE KILLED BEFORE OUR EYES BY THE REBELS...
LESLIE AND ME MANAGED TO ESCAPE BY HIDING IN A CARGO SHIP BOUND FOR UNITED STATES... IT WAS HER IDEA!


HOW WAS IT IN THE UNITED STATES?
I DON'T KNOW, BECAUSE WE NEVER GOT THERE! ONE OF THE SAILORS DISCOVERED OUR HIDEOUT IN THE HOLD DURING THE TRIP... HE IMMEDIATELY ALERTED THE CAPTAIN OF THE FREIGHTER THAT WE WERE STOWAWAYS....
...AND AS WE WERE MINORS, IMMIGRATION SERVICE PUT US WITH THE SOCIAL SERVICE, BUT AS SOON AS MY SISTER TURNED EIGHTEEN, THEY TOLD HER THAT THEY DON'T HAVE ROOM FOR HER... SHE FOUND HERSELF ON THE STREET, ALONE, BROKE...
DAMN, I MISSED HER THEN. SHE PHONED ME ALMOST EVERY DAY AT THE BEGINNING... THEN CALLS CAME IN LESS FREQUENTLY.... AND THEN LAST YEAR, NOTHING.
WE'RE HERE! JUMP FROM THE TRAIN!
YOUR SISTER LIVES THERE?
YES... WHEN WE TALKED LAST...
IF SHE SAID SO, BUT SHE'S NOT RIDING ON GOLD!

TARGET : AQUIRED
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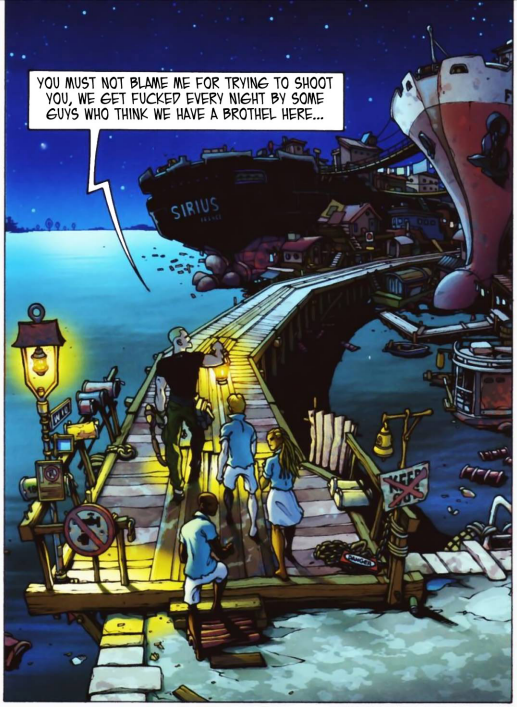
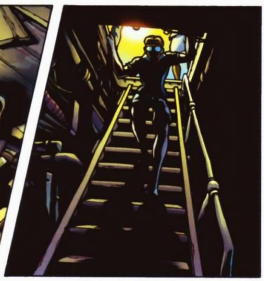
UR Unlocked
?!
DON'T THINK I MISSED, LITTLE SHITS, THAT WAS JUST A WARNING! WE DON'T LIKE PROWLERS HERE! GET AWAY OR I'LL SEND YOU TO THE CEMETERY FOR GOOD!
WE'RE NOT PROWLERS, SIR! WE'RE LOOKING FOR MY SISTER, I THINK SHE LIVES HERE!
WHAT'S HER NAME?
LESLIE BARIMORE.
I KNOW HER... I'LL SHOW YOU HER HOUSE. YOU STAY HERE AND GUARD!
SURE!


YOU MUST NOT BLAME ME FOR TRYING TO SHOOT YOU, WE GET FUCKED EVERY NIGHT BY SOME GUYS WHO THINK WE HAVE A BROTHEL HERE...
SIRIUS

...AND AS COPS DON'T SET FOOT IN THIS SECTOR, WE MUST DEFEND OURSELVES FROM VIOLENCE...

...THAT'S WHY WE TAKE TURNS AT GUARDING!

GO AHEAD... SHE MUST BE SLEEPING AT THIS TIME.

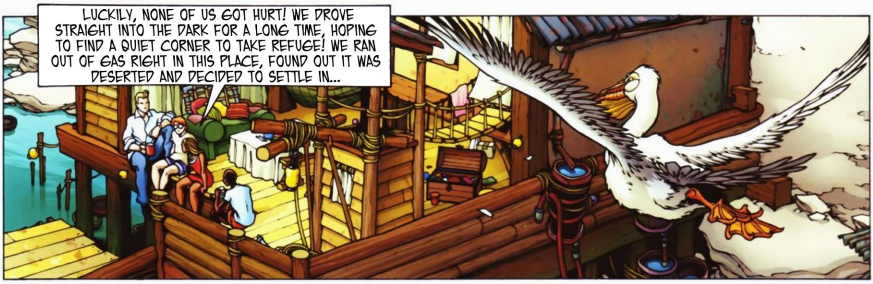


LESLIE... IT'S ME, APPLE... I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU...
WAKE UP... I...
LESLIE... NOOOOOOO!
?!
WHAT HAPPENED HERE!? WHY DID YOU SCREAM?
HIS SISTER IS DEAD...
IT WAS PREDICTABLE! SHE COULDN'T HAVE ENDED IT ANY OTHER WAY! WORST THING FOR THE BABY...
WHAT BABY? I DIDN'T KNOW SHE HAD ONE! WHERE IS IT?
THERE IN THE BOX... IT WAS ALL LESLIE COULD FIND FOR A CRADLE...
IS IT A BOY?
NO, A GIRL... SHE CALLED HER KUMIKO... NOBODY KNOWS HER FATHER... EVEN YOUR SISTER DIDN'T KNOW...
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HER? TO THE ORPHANAGE?
WHICH ONE? THEY ARE SO FULL, THEY'RE CRACKING AROUND CORNERS! THEY WILL NOT TAKE HER!

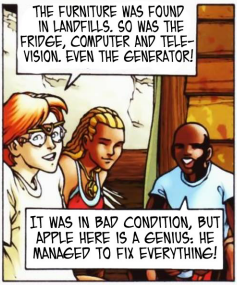
AND WE CAN'T ADOPTER HER, WE'RE TOO POOR! THIS WILL JUST BRING US ANOTHER MOUTH TO FEED! AND WE'RE ALREADY FEEDING OUR OWN BRATS, CAN'T BOTHER WITH ANOTHER!
WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH HER?
WHAT WE DO TO KITTENS WITHOUT A MOTHER.
Y... YOU'LL DROWN HER?
SHE'S SLEEPING PEACEFULLY, SHE WON'T REALIZE IT.
STOP! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO DO THAT! LET HER LIVE!
TO END UP LIKE AN OVERDOSED PROSTITUTE LIKE LESLIE, THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?
NO? THEN LEAVE ME ALONE!
THERE'S NO PLACE FOR LOST CHILDREN IN THIS SHITTY WORLD... SOMEONE MUST TAKE CARE OF THE DIRTY WORK...

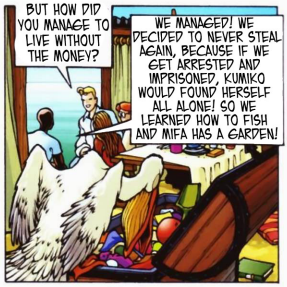
HHAAAAA
?!

B... BRIAN !!
YOU KILLED HIM, YOU LITTLE PIECE OF CRAP! HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND! I'LL KILL YOU ALL!

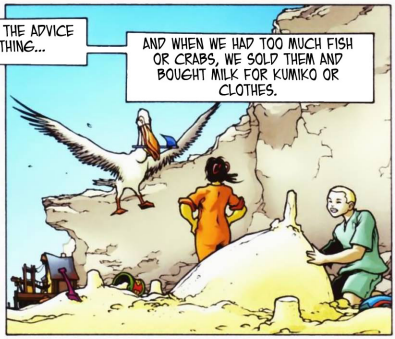

LUCKILY, NONE OF US GOT HURT! WE DROVE STRAIGHT INTO THE DARK FOR A LONG TIME, HOPING TO FIND A QUIET CORNER TO TAKE REFUGE! WE RAN OUT OF GAS RIGHT IN THIS PLACE, FOUND OUT IT WAS DESERTED AND DECIDED TO SETTLE IN...

...THERE WAS NOTHING HERE, NOBODY! JUST AN OLD ABANDONED FISHERMAN'S HUT. WE FIXED HER UP WITH SOME WOOD AND MADE IT LARGER.


THE FURNITURE WAS FOUND IN LANDFILLS. SO WAS THE FRIDGE, COMPUTER AND TELEVISION. EVEN THE GENERATOR!
IT WAS IN BAD CONDITION, BUT APPLE HERE IS A GENIUS: HE MANAGED TO FIX EVERYTHING!

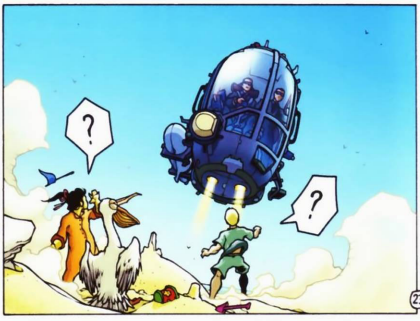

BUT HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO LIVE WITHOUT THE MONEY?
WE MANAGED! WE DECIDED TO NEVER STEAL AGAIN, BECAUSE IF WE GET ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED, KUMIKO WOULD FOUND HERSELF ALL ALONE! SO WE LEARNED HOW TO FISH AND MIFA HAS A GARDEN!

A VEGETABLE GARDEN? WHERE?
UP THERE ON THE CLIFF! I HAVE GROWN THEM BY THE ADVICE OF MY GRANDMOTHER, WE NEVER MISSED ANYTHING...


AND WHEN WE HAD TOO MUCH FISH OR CRABS, WE SOLD THEM AND BOUGHT MILK FOR KUMIKO OR CLOTHES.

I TOLD YOU TO GET RED! NOT BLUE!

GOOD, NOT BAD, IT WILL DO!


?
?

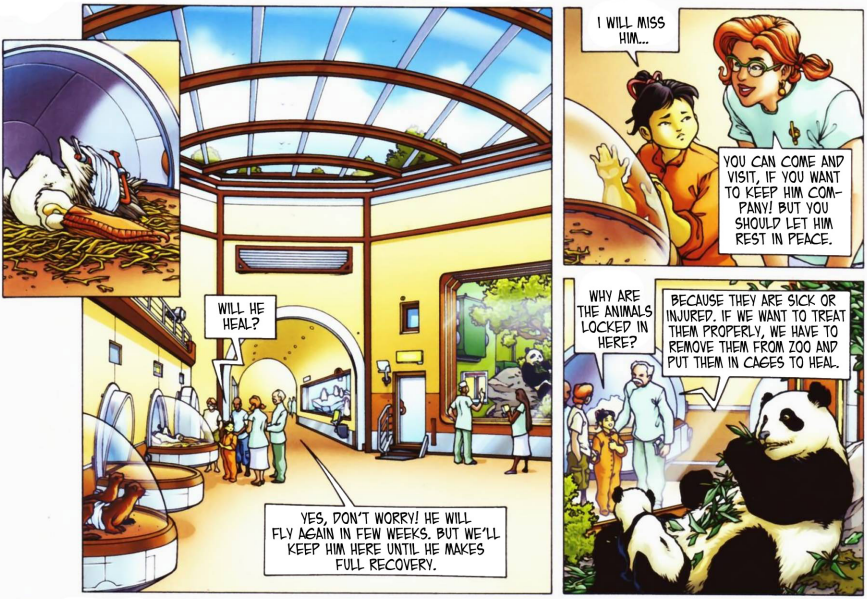
?!
NOOOO...
LET ME GO!
DIRTY BEAST!
IS HE DEAD?
NO, HE'S JUST BADLY WOUNDED.
AND MY FRIEND LOLI? WHERE DID THEY TOOK HER?
I DON'T KNOW, DEAR, BUT I'LL ASK THE GOLDEN CITY POLICE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FIND HER!
WHY DON'T YOU CALL THEM RIGHT NOW AND ALERT THEM TO CHASE KIDNAPPER'S HELICOPTER?
I DIDN'T TAKE MY LAPTOP WITH ME WHEN WE CAME HERE LAST NIGHT.*
THE POLICE WILL HAVE TO COME ON THIS BEACH TO LOOK FOR CLUES. MIFA, I WANT YOU TO RETURN AND SHOW THEM THE LOCATION OF ABDUCTION. I CAN'T DO IT, BECAUSE I HAVE TO ATTEND A BOARD MEETING IN AN HOUR.
OK! COUNT ON ME!

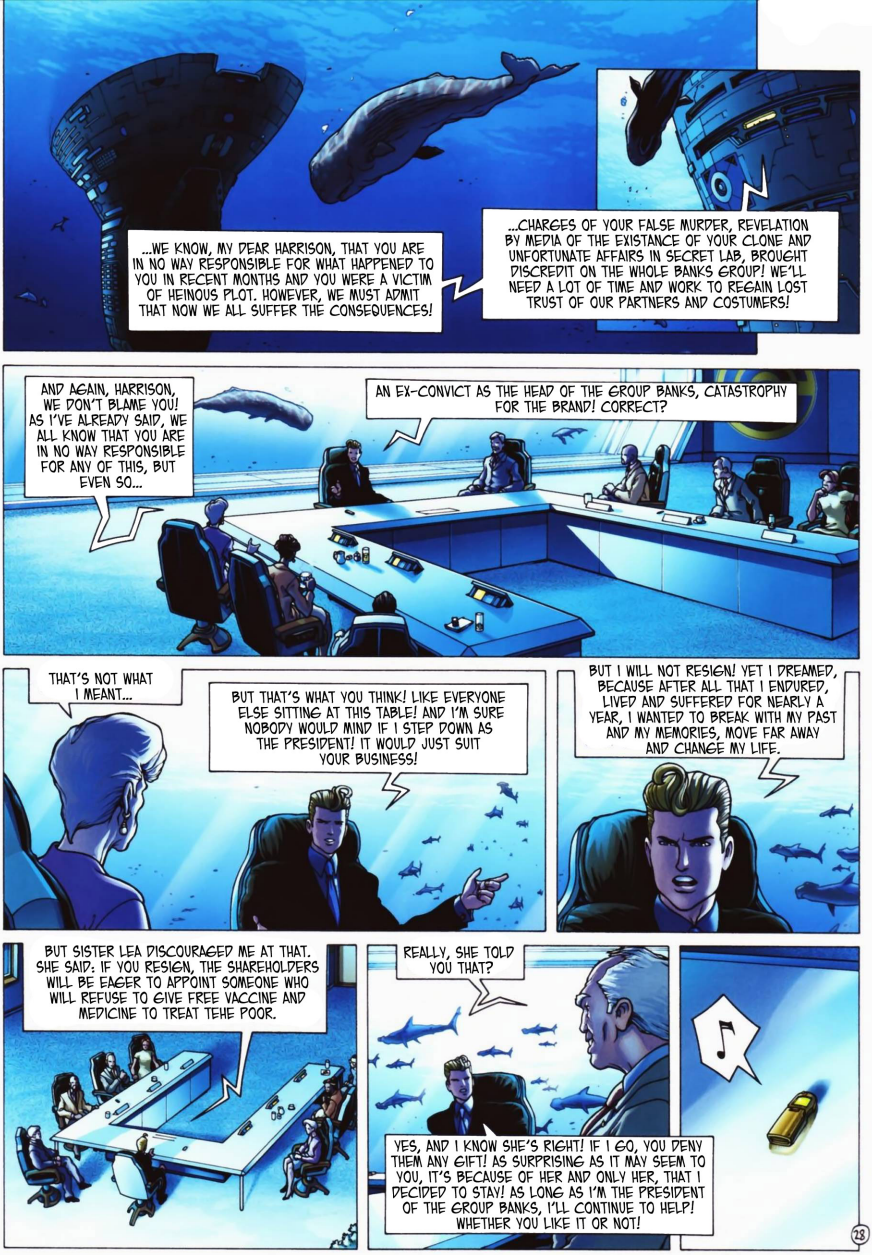
*IN BOOK 6

SLEPT WELL, PROFESSOR SEED?
?!
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?
YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL! I RECEIVED ORDERS TO WATCH OVER YOU UNTIL YOU WAKE UP. YOU SLEPT CLOSE TO NOON. THAT NARCOTIC USED BY THE COMMANDOS HAD TO BE STRONGER THAN EXPECTED!
WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. COME HERE!
PUT THIS DRESS ON BEFORE WE GO.
NOBODY KNEW THAT I TOOK REFUGE IN THE APARTMENT OF MY FRIEND LAUREN DANNER AFTER ESCAPING FROM GOLDEN CITY! HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HIDING THERE?
SHE TOLD ME.
LAUREN?! YOU... YOU KNOW HER?
I STUDIED THREE YEARS AT THE UNIVERSITY. I WAS IN LOVE WITH HER AT THAT TIME, AND WE LIVED TOGETHER IN A WILD PASSION. I LEFT HER SINCE THEN, BUT SHE STILL CALLED ME FROM TIME TO TIME.
SHE CALLED ME ABOUT A WEEK AGO. SHE WAS NERVOUS, WORRIED. I ASKED HER WHAT IS WRONG, AND SHE EVENTUALLY TOLD ME SHE'S WAS HIDING YOU, BUT SHE FEARED THAT ONE OF HER STUDENT WILL DISCOVER THE TRUTH.
THAT IDIOT! TOOK A NICE TIME TO TALK! SHE PROMISED ME THAT MY PRESENCE WON'T BE NOTICED! I'M SICK OF HER: SHE ALWAYS WAS TOO TALKATIVE!
SHE WON'T BE SPEAKING ANYMORE. WE MADE HER SILENT. FOREVER.
YOU KILLED HER?
YES! WE NEVER LEAVE WITNESSES BEHIND US, PROFESSOR.

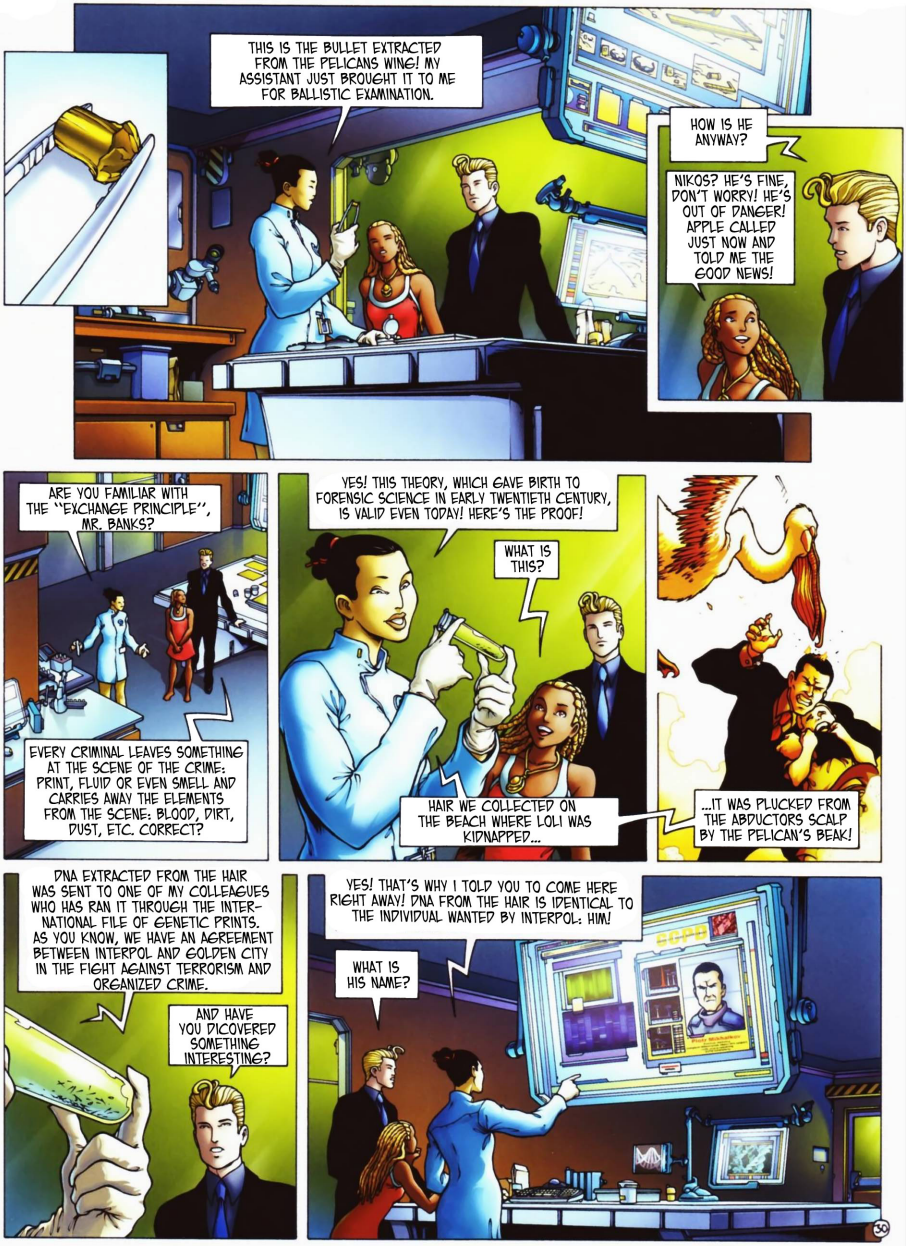
ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD HAVE ARRIVED, MR. PRESIDENT...
THEY ARE WAITING IN THE MEETING ROOM.
VERY WELL, I'M GOING THERE!
HELLO? YES, YES, MR. BANKS, WE HAVE BEGAN WITH OUR INVESTIGATION AS YOU ASKED! WE'LL SEARCH AND COLLECT ALL CLUES LEFT BY KIDNAPPERS ON THE PLACE WHERE LITTLE ONE WAS TAKEN...
...ONCE WE FINISH, WE'LL RETURN TO THE LAB AND ANALYZE THEM ALL!
OK! CALL ME WHEN YOU GET THE RESULTS. THANK YOU!
GOOD DAY TO YOU ALL.
HELLO, HARRISON! WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO FINALLY MEET YOU AFTER THE DRAMATIC MOMENTS THAT YOU HAD TO ENDURE!*

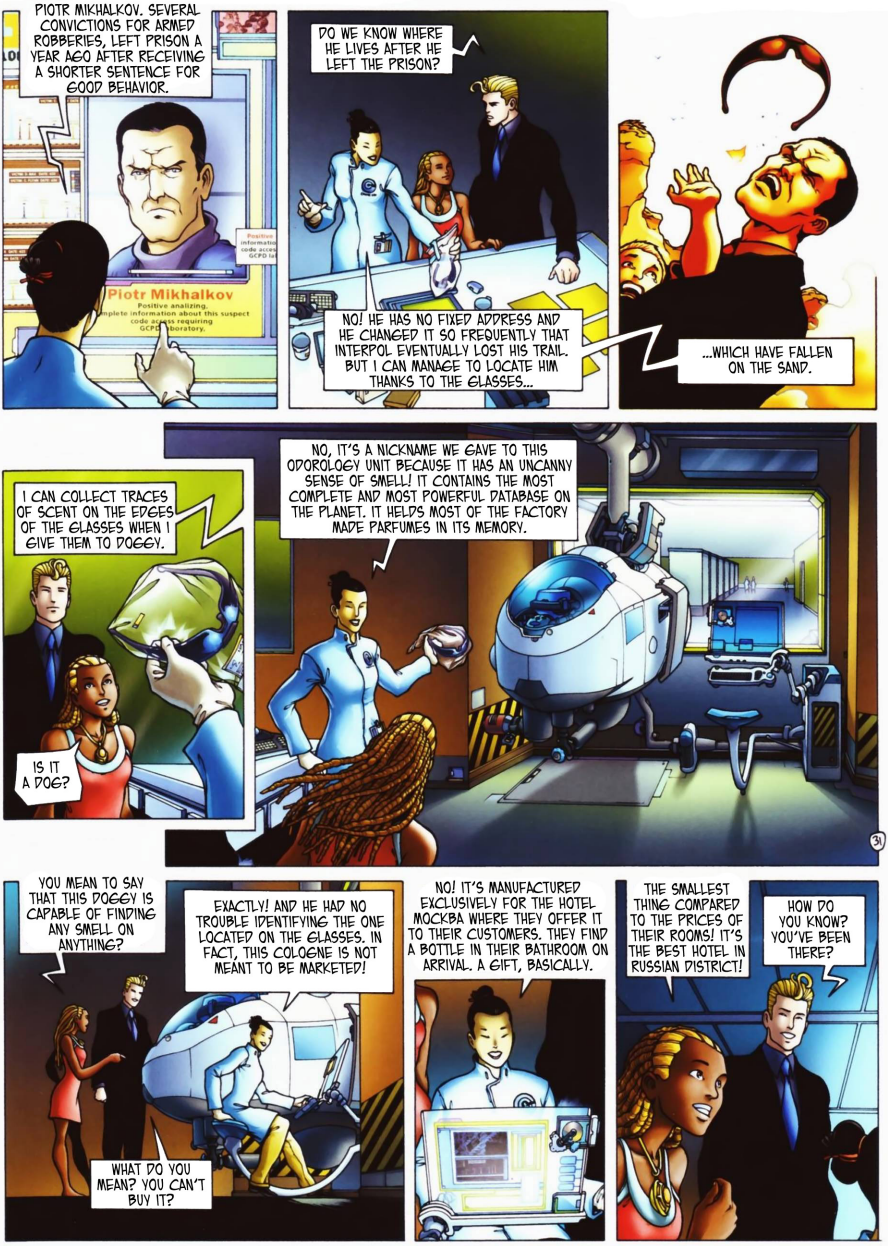
*IN BOOK 1 TO 6


WILL HE HEAL?
YES, DON'T WORRY! HE WILL FLY AGAIN IN FEW WEEKS. BUT WE'LL KEEP HIM HERE UNTIL HE MAKES FULL RECOVERY.
I WILL MISS HIM...
YOU CAN COME AND VISIT, IF YOU WANT TO KEEP HIM COMPANY! BUT YOU SHOULD LET HIM REST IN PEACE.
WHY ARE THE ANIMALS LOCKED IN HERE?
BECAUSE THEY ARE SICK OR INJURED. IF WE WANT TO TREAT THEM PROPERLY, WE HAVE TO REMOVE THEM FROM ZOO AND PUT THEM IN CAGES TO HEAL.
THERE'S A ZOO HERE? IN GOLDEN CITY?
YES! YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
CAN WE GO, APPLE?
GO WITHOUT ME! I HATE SEEING ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY! THEY ARE MADE TO LIVE IN FREEDOM!
YOU ARE RIGHT, MY BOY, BUT ANIMALS YOU SEE HERE BELONG IN THE EXTINCT GROUP, AND SO DO ALL OTHER ANIMALS IN THE ZOO. IF THEY WOULD LIVE OUT THERE, THEY WOULD BE NO MORE.
THEY OWE THEIR SURVIVAL TO HARRISON BANKS.
WHY? HE FINANCES THE ZOO?
YES! IT IS IN FACT A REAL NATURAL RESERVE, CREATED TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE FLORA AND FAUNA, WHICH IS DISAPPEARING AROUND THE WORLD DUE TO DEFORESTATION AND POLLUTION.

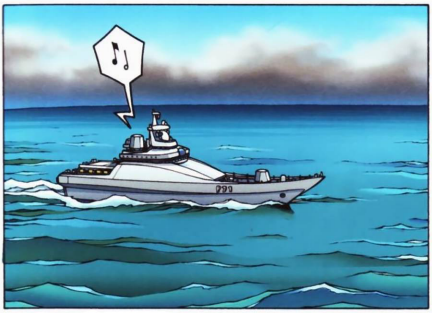

...WE KNOW, MY DEAR HARRISON, THAT YOU ARE IN NO WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU IN RECENT MONTHS AND YOU WERE A VICTIM OF HEINOUS PLOT. HOWEVER, WE MUST ADMIT THAT NOW WE ALL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!
...CHARGES OF YOUR FALSE MURDER, REVELATION BY MEDIA OF THE EXISTANCE OF YOUR CLONE AND UNFORTUNATE AFFAIRS IN SECRET LAB, BROUGHT DISCREDIT ON THE WHOLE BANKS GROUP! WE'LL NEED A LOT OF TIME AND WORK TO REGAIN LOST TRUST OF OUR PARTNERS AND COSTUMERS!
AND AGAIN, HARRISON, WE DON'T BLAME YOU! AS I'VE ALREADY SAID, WE ALL KNOW THAT YOU ARE IN NO WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THIS, BUT EVEN SO...
AN EX-CONVICT AS THE HEAD OF THE GROUP BANKS, CATASTROPHY FOR THE BRAND! CORRECT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! LIKE EVERYONE ELSE SITTING AT THIS TABLE! AND I'M SURE NOBODY WOULD MIND IF I STEP DOWN AS THE PRESIDENT! IT WOULD JUST SUIT YOUR BUSINESS!
BUT I WILL NOT RESIGN! YET I DREAMED, BECAUSE AFTER ALL THAT I ENDURED, LIVED AND SUFFERED FOR NEARLY A YEAR, I WANTED TO BREAK WITH MY PAST AND MY MEMORIES, MOVE FAR AWAY AND CHANGE MY LIFE.
BUT SISTER LEA DISCOURAGED ME AT THAT. SHE SAID: IF YOU RESIGN, THE SHAREHOLDERS WILL BE EAGER TO APPOINT SOMEONE WHO WILL REFUSE TO GIVE FREE VACCINE AND MEDICINE TO TREAT TEHE POOR.
REALLY, SHE TOLD YOU THAT?
YES, AND I KNOW SHE'S RIGHT! IF I GO, YOU DENY THEM ANY GIFT! AS SURPRISING AS IT MAY SEEM TO YOU, IT'S BECAUSE OF HER AND ONLY HER, THAT I DECIDED TO STAY! AS LONG AS I'M THE PRESIDENT OF THE GROUP BANKS, I'LL CONTINUE TO HELP! WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!

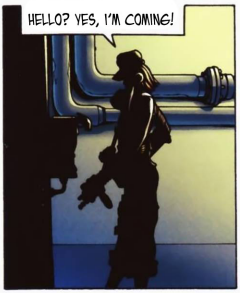
HELLO? YES, THANK YOU FOR THE INFORMATION! I'M COMING!
SORRY FOR CUTTING THIS MEETING SHORT! I'M EXPECTED AT THE FORENSICS LABORATORY!
BUT YOU CAN'T LEAVE SO SOON! WE STILL MUST DISCUSS ABOUT VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES!
LESS IMPORTANT TO ME THAN LIFE OF A LITTLE GIRL!
WHAT LITTLE GIRL?
PROBABLY ABOUT THAT KID THEY WERE TALKING ON THE ECC.* SHE WAS KIDNAPPED THIS MORNING BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS, AND BANKS WITNESSED THE ABDUCTION!
29
THIS IS NOT A REASON TO LEAVE HIS PROFESSIONAL AVTIVITIES! HE HAS HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES, HE MUST ACCEPT THEM WHATEVER HAPPENS.
IN MY OPINION, HIS CURRENT BEHAVIOURS ARE THE DIRECT CONSEQUENCES OF THE DRAMATIC PAST MONTHS. HIS STAY IN PRISON AND TRAGIC DEATH OF JESSICA WEIGHTED MORE ON HIM THAT HE WANTS TO ADMIT.
IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT HIS CONDUCT WAS INADMISSABLE! HE'S UNWORTHY OF HIS POSITION AND HE'S JEOPERDIZING THE SURVIVAL OF OUR COMPANY! WE MUST TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS IN SUCH CASE!
YOU MEAN, DEMAND HIS RESIGNATION?
YES.
AND IF HE REFUSES?
THEN WE'RE FORCED TO ACT! AND FAST! THE WORM IN THE FRUIT MUST BE ELIMINATED!


THIS IS THE BULLET EXTRACTED FROM THE PELICANS WING! MY ASSISTANT JUST BROUGHT IT TO ME FOR BALLISTIC EXAMINATION.
HOW IS HE ANYWAY?
NIKOS? HE'S FINE, DON'T WORRY! HE'S OUT OF DANGER! APPLE CALLED JUST NOW AND TOLD ME THE GOOD NEWS!
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE "EXCHANGE PRINCIPLE", MR. BANKS?
EVERY CRIMINAL LEAVES SOMETHING AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME: PRINT, FLUID OR EVEN SMELL AND CARRIES AWAY THE ELEMENTS FROM THE SCENE: BLOOD, DIRT, DUST, ETC. CORRECT?
YES! THIS THEORY, WHICH GAVE BIRTH TO FORENSIC SCIENCE IN EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY, IS VALID EVEN TODAY! HERE'S THE PROOF!
WHAT IS THIS?
HAIR WE COLLECTED ON THE BEACH WHERE LOLI WAS KIDNAPPED...
...IT WAS PLUCKED FROM THE ABDUCTORS SCALP BY THE PELICAN'S BEAK!
DNA EXTRACTED FROM THE HAIR WAS SENT TO ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES WHO HAS RAN IT THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL FILE OF GENETIC PRINTS. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN INTERPOL AND GOLDEN CITY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME.
AND HAVE YOU DICOVERED SOMETHING INTERESTING?
YES! THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO COME HERE RIGHT AWAY! DNA FROM THE HAIR IS IDENTICAL TO THE INDIVIDUAL WANTED BY INTERPOL: HIM!
WHAT IS HIS NAME?
CCCP


PIOTR MIKHALKOV. SEVERAL CONVICTIONS FOR ARMED ROBBERIES, LEFT PRISON A YEAR AGO AFTER RECEIVING A SHORTER SENTENCE FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR.
Piotr Mikhalkov
Positive analizing.
Complete information about this suspect code access requiring GCPD laboratory.
DO WE KNOW WHERE HE LIVES AFTER HE LEFT THE PRISON?
NO! HE HAS NO FIXED ADDRESS AND HE CHANGED IT SO FREQUENTLY THAT INTERPOL EVENTUALLY LOST HIS TRAIL. BUT I CAN MANAGE TO LOCATE HIM THANKS TO THE GLASSES...
...WHICH HAVE FALLEN ON THE SAND.
I CAN COLLECT TRACES OF SCENT ON THE EDGES OF THE GLASSES WHEN I GIVE THEM TO DOGGY.
IS IT A DOG?
NO, IT'S A NICKNAME WE GAVE TO THIS ODOROLOGY UNIT BECAUSE IT HAS AN UNCANNY SENSE OF SMELL! IT CONTAINS THE MOST COMPLETE AND MOST POWERFUL DATABASE ON THE PLANET. IT HELPS MOST OF THE FACTORY MADE PARFUMES IN ITS MEMORY.
YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT THIS DOGGY IS CAPABLE OF FINDING ANY SMELL ON ANYTHING?
EXACTLY! AND HE HAD NO TROUBLE IDENTIFYING THE ONE LOCATED ON THE GLASSES. IN FACT, THIS COLOGNE IS NOT MEANT TO BE MARKETED!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU CAN'T BUY IT?
NO! IT'S MANUFACTURED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE HOTEL MOCKBA WHERE THEY OFFER IT TO THEIR CUSTOMERS. THEY FIND A BOTTLE IN THEIR BATHROOM ON ARRIVAL. A GIFT, BASICALLY.
THE SMALLEST THING COMPARED TO THE PRICES OF THEIR ROOMS! IT'S THE BEST HOTEL IN RUSSIAN DISTRICT!
HOW DO YOU KNOW? YOU'VE BEEN THERE?
31

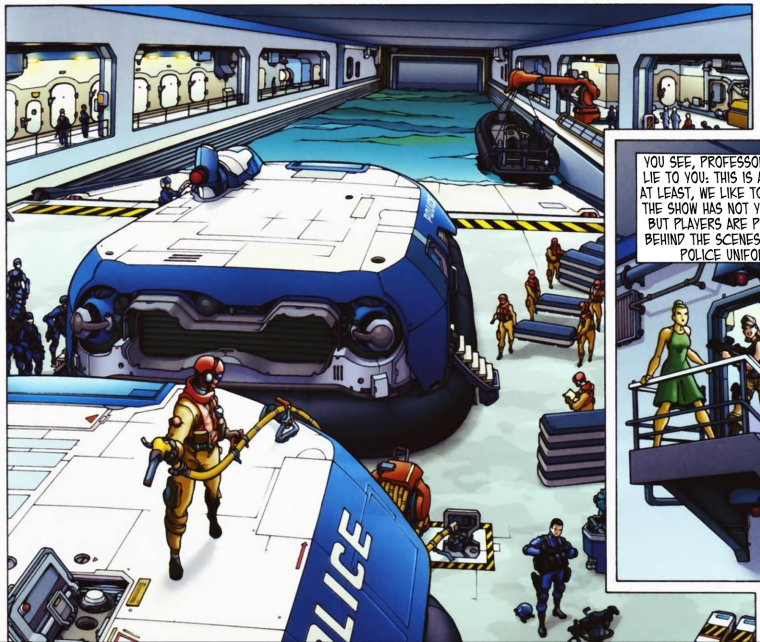
YES, OFTEN! SOLO AND I WERE BEGGING IN FRONT OF THE ENTRANCE WHEN WE WERE KIDS. CUSTOMERS WERE FULL OF MONEY, BUT MOST OF THE TIME THEY DIDN'T GIVE US ANYTHING, SO WE HELPED OURSELVES. THEY WEREN'T AWARE BECAUSE WE WERE VERY GOOD AT PICKPOCKETING.
PICK-POCKETING?!
NOT LIKE THAT! WE WERE HUNGRY AND WE HAD TO ADOPT TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES, NO? WE STOPED AFTER TIME!
WELL, I'M GOING!
WHERE TO?
SEE WHAT'S GOING ON AT THIS "MOCKBA"!
NO WAY! YOU WILL NOT GO THERE! I FORBID IT!
YOU DON'T! WHO GAVE YOU THE RIGHT! YOU'RE NOT MY FATHER!
NO, BUT THIS GUY IS A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL, NOT A BOY SCOUT! YOU HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST HIM! HE WILL KILL YOU BEFORE YOU EVEN KNOW IT!
MR. BANKS IS RIGHT, DON'T GO ALONE, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS! I'LL GO WITH YOU!
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE, YOU KNOW THAT GOLDEN CITY POLICE HAS NO RIGHT INVESTIGATING THE MAINLAND!
NOT OFFICIALLY, BUT INFORMALLY...
CRIME LAB
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, I FINISH MY WORK IN AN HOUR. I'M OFF DUTY THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND AND I WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE RUSSIAN DISTRICT BECAUSE I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE!
GOOD IDEA! AND I CAN BE YOUR GUIDE!
ARE YOU NOW REASURRED? YOU LIKE IT LIKE THIS? DO YOU AGREE?
AGREE OR DISAGREE, YOU'LL DO WHATEVER GETS IN YOUR HEAD!

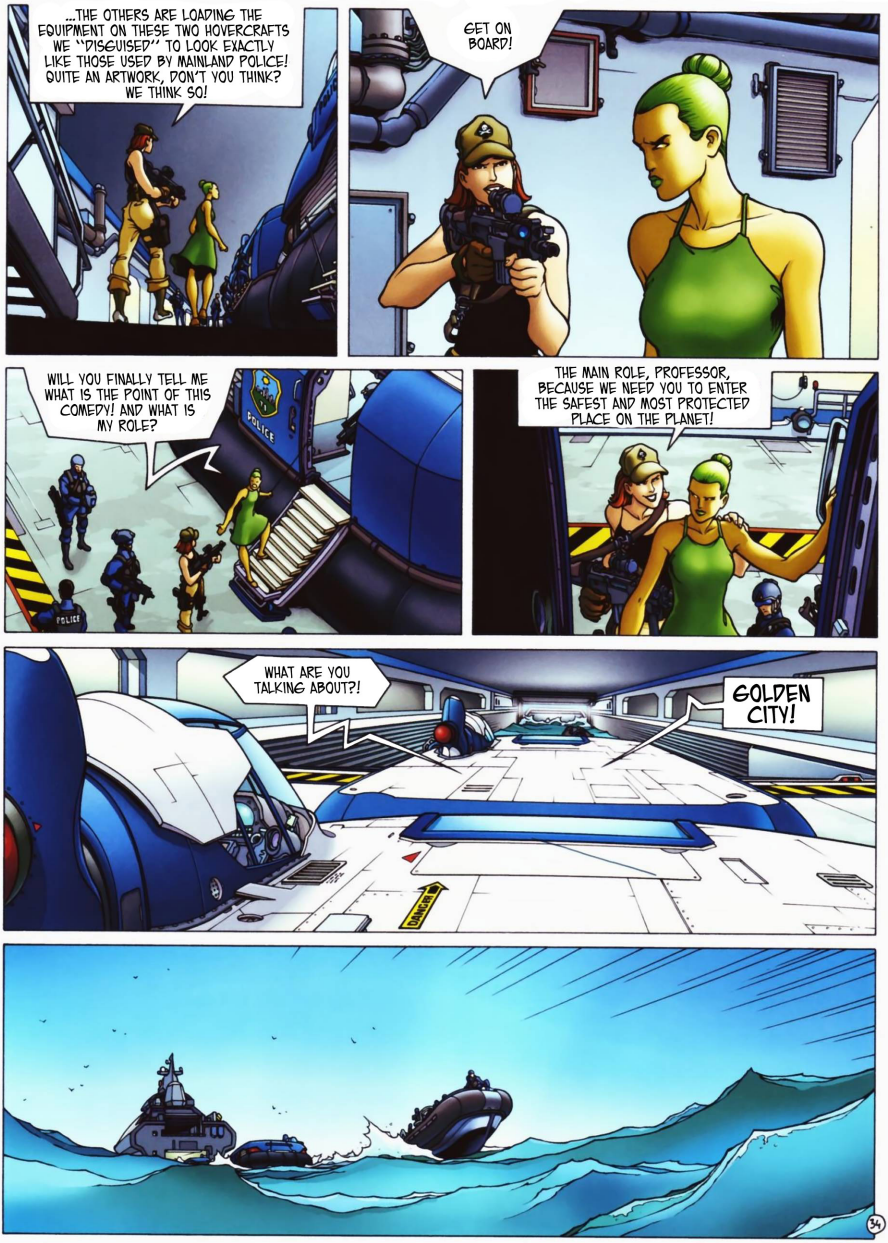


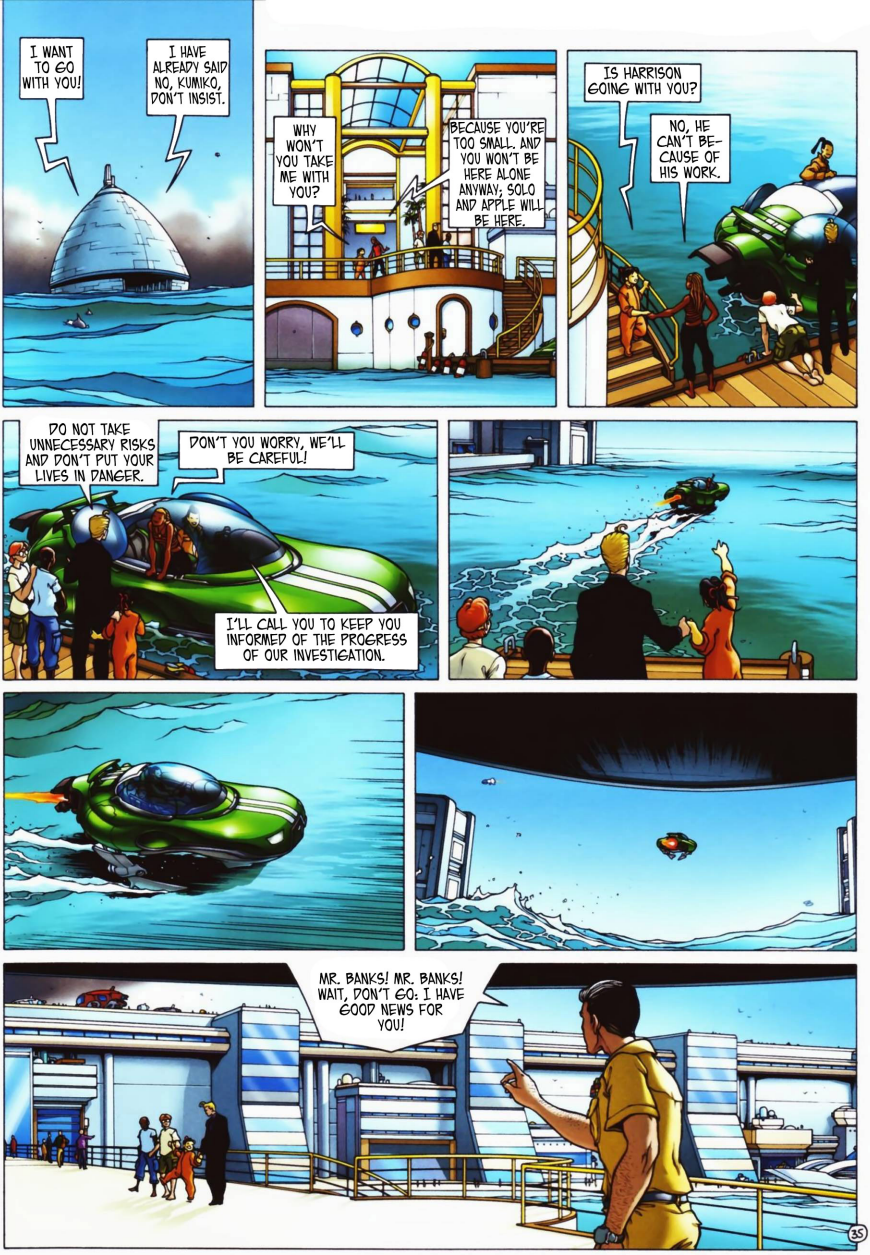

HELLO? YES, I'M COMING!

GET UP, PROFESSOR! WE'RE GOING!

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TO THE THEATRE!
33

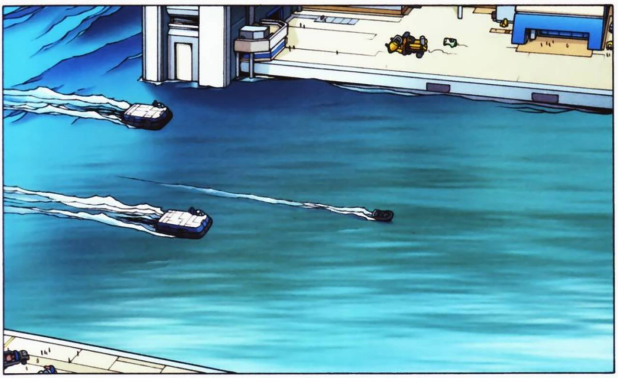

YOU SEE, PROFESSOR, I DIDN'T LIE TO YOU: THIS IS A THEATER! AT LEAST, WE LIKE TO THINK SO! THE SHOW HAS NOT YET BEGUN, BUT PLAYERS ARE PREPARING BEHIND THE SCENES: WEARING POLICE UNIFORMS.


...THE OTHERS ARE LOADING THE EQUIPMENT ON THESE TWO HOVERCRAFTS WE "DISGUISED" TO LOOK EXACTLY LIKE THOSE USED BY MAINLAND POLICE! QUITE AN ARTWORK, DON'T YOU THINK?
WE THINK SO!
GET ON BOARD!
WILL YOU FINALLY TELL ME WHAT IS THE POINT OF THIS COMEDY! AND WHAT IS MY ROLE?
POLICE
POLICE
THE MAIN ROLE, PROFESSOR, BECAUSE WE NEED YOU TO ENTER THE SAFEST AND MOST PROTECTED PLACE ON THE PLANET!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
GOLDEN CITY!
DANGER

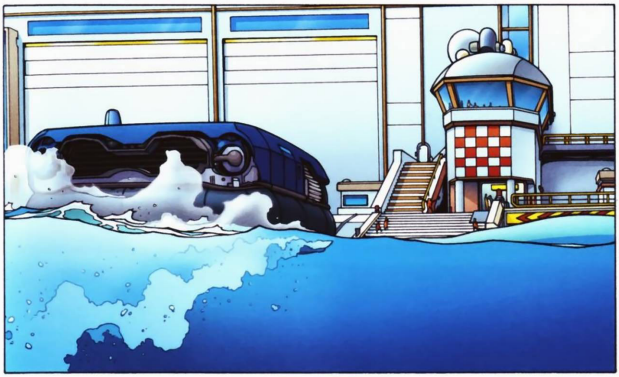

I WANT TO GO WITH YOU!
I HAVE ALREADY SAID NO, KUMIKO, DON'T INSIST.
WHY WON'T YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU?
BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO SMALL. AND YOU WON'T BE HERE ALONE ANYWAY; SOLO AND APPLE WILL BE HERE.
IS HARRISON GOING WITH YOU?
NO, HE CAN'T BE-CAUSE OF HIS WORK.
DO NOT TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS AND DON'T PUT YOUR LIVES IN DANGER.
DON'T YOU WORRY, WE'LL BE CAREFUL!
I'LL CALL YOU TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF OUR INVESTIGATION.
MR. BANKS! MR. BANKS! WAIT, DON'T GO: I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!

MAINLAND POLICE JUST CALLED ME A MOMENT AGO AND TOLD ME THAT THEY CAUGHT PROFESSOR SEED!
IS THAT TRUE? WHERE WAS SHE HIDING?
I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T HAVE THAT INFORMATION! BUT THEY ARE HEADING TOWARDS GOLDEN CITY WHERE SHE WILL BE TRIALED. THEY ARE ONLY A FEW MOMENTS AWAY!
VERY WELL, I'LL WAIT! HAVE YOU TOLD THE MAYOR?
YES! HE'LL JOIN US THERE.
WELL PLAYED, SEAN, GOLDEN CITY COPS REALLY BELIEVED THAT YOU BELONG TO THE MAINLAND POLICE! THEY EVEN DIDN'T REQUESTED YOUR NUMBER FOR VERIFICATION!
THEY REACTED EXACTLY AS I HOPED! I KNEW THAT USING SEED AS BAIT WILL MAKE THEM BITE...
...BECAUSE AN INTERNATIONAL ARREST WARRANT WAS ISSUED AGAINST HER* AND THEY HAVE ONLY ONE THING ON THEIR MINDS: GETTING HER INTO PRISON!
BUT THAT WAS EASY PART FOR US! NOW THE HARD WORK BEGINS!

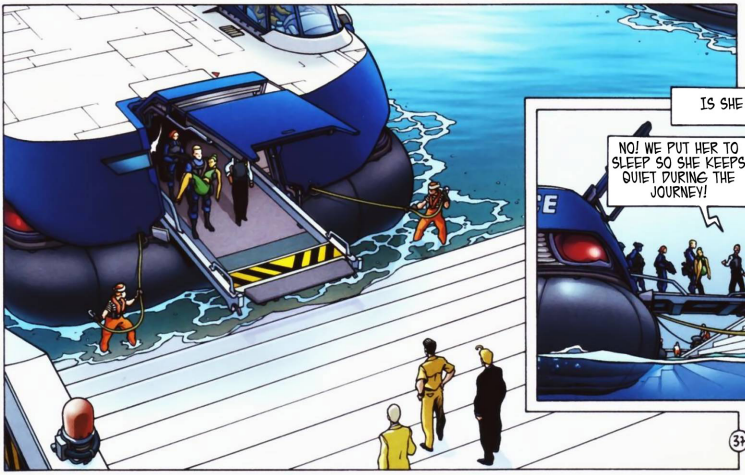
*IN BOOK 6



HERE THEY COME!



LET'S GO!
CAN I COME WITH YOU?
NO, DEAR, IT'S BETTER THAT YOU STAY HERE WITH APPLE AND SOLO.


IS SHE INJURED?
NO! WE PUT HER TO SLEEP SO SHE KEEPS QUIET DURING THE JOURNEY!

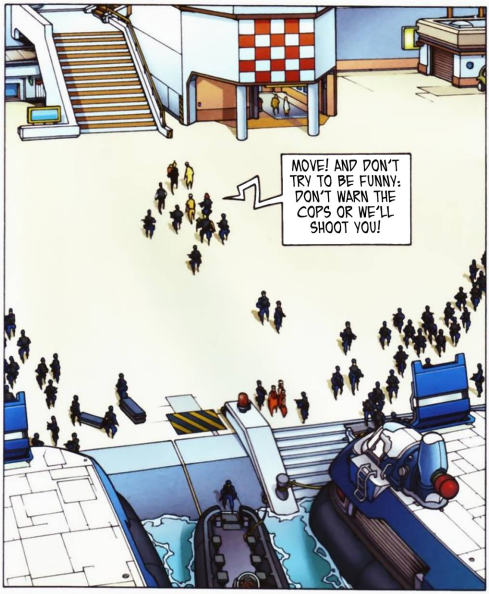
THE CONTINENT POLICE IS PLAYING HARD GAME! DO YOU SEE THAT? THERE MUST BE AT LEAST FORTY OF THEM! SEED SURELY CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THAT KIND OF ESCORT!
THEY ARE NOT THE COPS!
OH NO? WHAT THEN? CHEERLEADERS?
COME ON, I'M SERIOUS! YOU SEE THAT GIANT CARRYING SEED: DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE HIM? IT'S THE GUY WHO WANTED TO DROWN KUMIKO AND FOR WHO I THOUGHT I KILLED!
SHIT, YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S HIM!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THIS GENTLEMAN TRIED TO DROWN ME?
NO, I DIDN'T SAY THAT!
YES YOU DID, LIAR!
WE'LL TALK LATER, KUMI, NOW IS NOT THE TIME!
WE MUST WARN BANKS!
YES! BUT HOW CAN WE DO IT DISCREETLY?
?!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? STAY HERE! DO YOU HEAR ME? COME BACK IMMEDIATELY!
HARRISON! HARRISON! SAVE YOURSELF! QUICKLY! THEY WILL DROWN YOU!
?
GOODBYE DISCRETION!
WHAT A PUMPKIN!

WHO IS GOING TO DROWN ME?
THEM! THEY ARE NOT REAL POLICE!

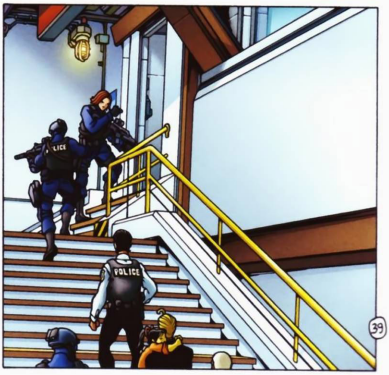
COME, COME, YOU SHOULD KEEP QUIET AND DON'T SAY ANYTHING! MY LITTLE GIRL IS JUST LIKE YOU: ALWAYS FANTASIZING SOMETHING INTERESTING! BUT I KNOW BETTER!

YOU ARE WRONG: ONLY TRUTH COMES FROM CHILDRENS MOUTH! DON'T MOVE OR YOU'RE DEAD!
?!

WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WE'LL EXPLAIN LATER. BUT FIRST, WE'RE ALL GOING TO THE COMMAND POST! AND TAKE THE GIRL, BECAUSE SHE IS TOO CHATTY TO BE LEFT HERE!


MOVE! AND DON'T TRY TO BE FUNNY: DON'T WARN THE COPS OR WE'LL SHOOT YOU!

IF ONE OF YOU TRIES TO ESCAPE, WE'LL KILL ANYTHING THAT MOVES. SMILE. ACT AS WE ARE TALKING CASUALLY SO NOBODY SUSPECTS WHAT IS HAPPENING.

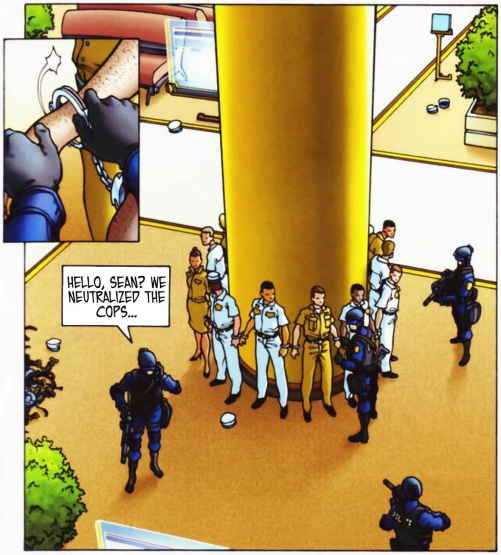

POLICE

HANDS UP! ANYONE DOES SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS AND I'LL KILL ALL THREE!
I KNOW YOU!
ME? OH NO, MISTER, YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN!
I THINK I ALREADY SAW YOU SOMEWHERE! BUT WHERE?
WE HAVE BIG ARSENAL ABOARD THE HOVERCRAFTS! ENOUGH TO DESTROY MUCH OF THE CITY! IF YOU DO EXACTLY AS I TELL YOU, EVERYTHING WILL GO WELL! OTHERWISE, MY GUYS WILL TAKE IT OUT ON THE RESIDENTS! UNDERSTOOD?
Y...YES.
GOOD! LET'S BEGIN: ORDER ALL YOUR COPS IN THE PORT AND AIRPORT TO DROP THEIR WEAPONS ON THE GROUND AND CUFF EACH OTHER!
B...BUT WHY?
TO FORM A GREAT CHAIN OF FRIENDSHIP, ASSHOLE! STOP ASKING QUESTIONS AND DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD!
S...SHOULD I OBEY, MR. MAYOR?
I THINK YOU HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.

I DON'T THINK MIKHALKOV AND HIS ACCOMPLICES KIDNAPPED LOLI BY CHANCE! THEY HAD A GOOD REASON TO DO IT!
YES, BUT WHICH ONE?
MAYBE WE SHOULD LOOK FOR ANSWERS IN HER PAST! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HER, MIFA?
NOT MUCH. BANKS FOUND HER WITH THE ORGAN TRAFFICKERS, AND SHE LIVED WITH US AFTER THAT.*
AND YOU NEVER ASKED HER WHERE SHE COMES FROM, OR IF SHE HAS A FAMILY SOMEWHERE?
41
OF COURSE WE DID! SOLO, APPLE AND ME ASKED HER ONE DAY ABOUT THIS, BUT SHE DIDN'T ANSWER AND SHE STARED TO CRY!
WE NEVER ASKED AGAIN AFTER THAT.

*IN BOOK 2

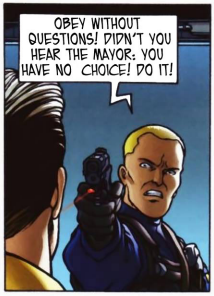
AND WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?
WAIT AND SEE IF MIKHALKOV WILL COME HERE.
WE MAY BE WAITING FOR A LONG TIME! ESPECIALLY WHEN WE DON'T KNOW IF HE IS STILL AT 'MOCKBA', HE COULD ALREADY LEFT! I'M GOING TO TAKE A LOOK, WE'LL KNOW THEN!
I DOUBT THAT THEY WILL LET YOU ENTER THE HOTEL!
I'LL GO IN THROUGH THE KITCHEN. I KNOW THE HEAD COOK. HE'S NICE, HE OFTEN GAVE DINNER LEFTOVERS TO SOLO AND ME WHEN WE WERE HUNGRY AND STARVING. I HOPE HE'S STILL NICE!
I TOOK A PHOTO OF MIKHALKOV. YOU WANT IT?
YES! HE COULD RECOGNIZE HIM!
HERE. TAKE THIS WATCH. IT CONTAINS A MICRO-EMITTER. WE CAN KEEP IN CONTACT!
HOW DOES IT WORK? BY PRESSING THIS BUTTON?
NO, JUST TALK INTO THE SCREEN LIKE YOU WERE WATCHING FOR THE TIME.
TRY IT WHEN YOU CROSS THE BRIDGE TO CHECK IF IT'S WORKING PROPERLY.
OK!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YES! LOUD AND CLEAR!
10B

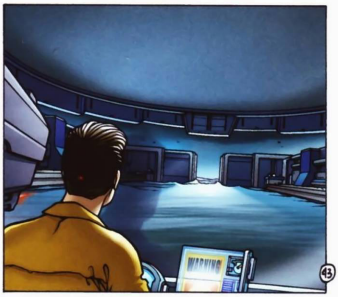

HELLO, SEAN? WE NEUTRALIZED THE COPS...

...AND WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH THE EVACUATION OF THE SITE!
EVERYBODY OUT! COME ON, HURRY UP! QUICKER THAN THAT!

PERFECT! LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE DONE!

WHEN THE EVACUATION IS COMPLETE, YOU'LL TRIGGER THE FIRE ALARM! THE FIRE DOORS WILL CLOSE AUTOMATICALLY AND BLOCK ALL ACCESS TO THE SITE! BUT FIRST CLOSE THE PORT DOOR AND THE CITY DOME!
WHAT FOR?


OBEY WITHOUT QUESTIONS! DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE MAYOR: YOU HAVE NO CHOICE! DO IT!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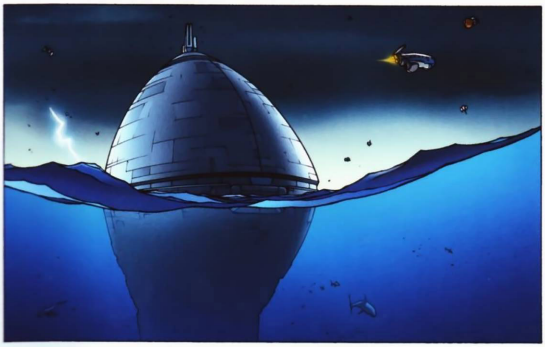
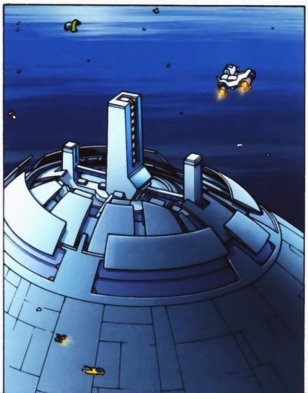
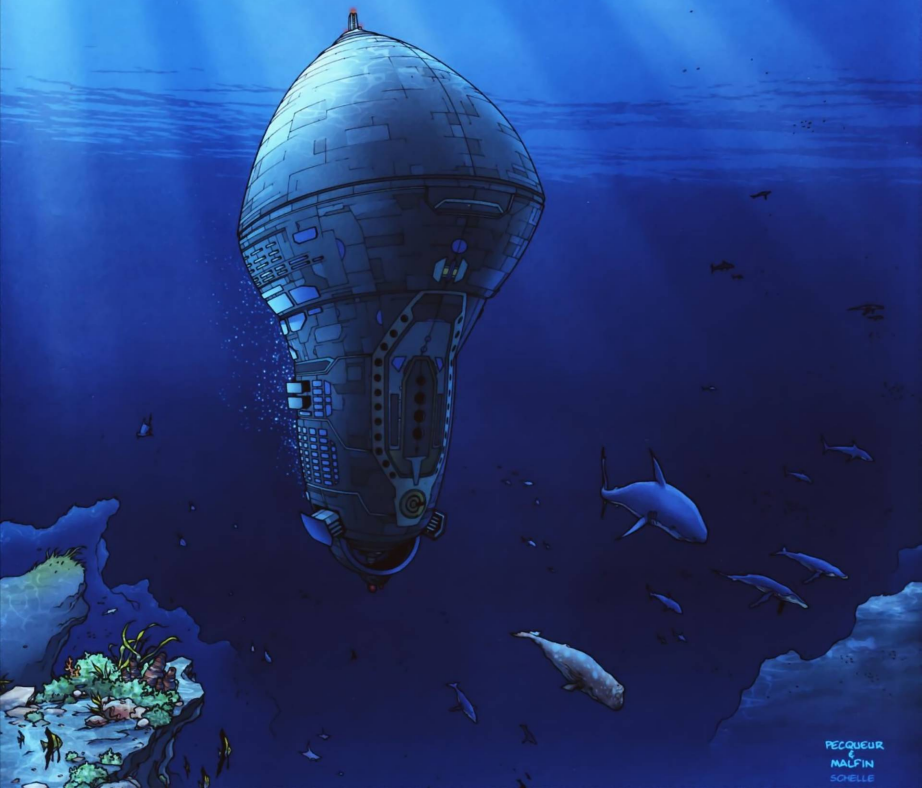




ALL FIRE DOORS ARE CLOSED, SEAN! PORT AND AIRPORT ARE NOW COMPLETELY CUT FROM THE REST OFF THE CITY! NOBODY CAN COME HERE!
OK! I HEAR YOU!
GOOD! AND NOW: COMPLETE IMMERSION!
ARE... ARE YOU JOKING?
NOT AT ALL! I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE SERIOUS! I KNOW THIS CITY HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO FULLY IMMERSE IN CASE OF DANGER: NUCLEAR WAR, ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION OR OTHER DEADLY SITUATION! IT CAN DIVE LIKE A GIGANTIC SUBMARINE! THEN WE CAN TAKE A LITTLE RIDE INTO THE ABYSS!
THIS LITTLE "RIDE" CAN QUICKLY TURN INTO A DISASTER, BECAUSE IMMERSION SYSTEM HAS BEEN TESTED ONLY ONCE: 35 YEARS AGO, 30. APRIL, 2064, A WEEK BEFORE THE OPENING OF GOLDEN CITY! WE ONLY PERFORMED SIMULATIONS SINCE THEN!
SO WHAT? IS THAT A PROBLEM? BY OUR INFORMATION THE SIMULATIONS WERE PERFECTLY SAFE! THE LAST ONE OCCURED LESS THAN A YEAR AGO AND SYSTEMS WERE RELIABLE!
THERE'S NO PROOF IT CAN HAPPEN AGAIN!
WE CAN FIND OUT RIGHT AWAY! DO IT!
IMPOSSIBLE! YOU HAVE TO ENTER THE SECRET CODE FIRST!
WHAT CODE?
I DON'T KNOW: IT CHANGES EVERY MONTH AND ONLY TWO PEOPLE KNOW IT.
WHICH PEOPLE? ANSWER ME! WHO KNOWS THE CODE? TALK OR I'LL SHOOT!
ME.
AND ME.

OK, I'LL START WITH YOU! YOU HAVE THREE SECONDS TO TELL ME THE CODE! ONE... TWO...
NO! I WOULD NEVER BETRAY MY POSITION AND THE CONFIDENCE OF MY FELLOW CITIZENS!
POLICE
THREE!
HHHAAAAA
WHY DID YOU SCREAM LIKE THAT? YOU SAW A MOUSE?
I'M AFRAID, APPLE! HE'S EVIL, HE'LL KILL US ALL!
APPLE!? YES, NOW I REMEMBER: YOU ARE THE BROTHER OF LESLIE BARIMORE! I THOUGHT I SAW YOU BEFORE!
YOU TRIED TO KILL ME, LITTLE BASTARD! BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAVE A THICK SKIN! I'LL DEAL WITH YOU LATER, IT CAN WAIT!
BUT FIRST I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR FRIEND BANKS! I DOUBT THAT HE'S MORE TALKATIVE THAN HIS ASSHOLE OF A MAYOR! LET'S SEE IF I CAN PERSUADE HIM TO TALK OR WILL HE ALSO TAKE THE SECRET TO THE GRAVE!
I COUNT ON YOU TO CONVINCE HIM! TELL HIM TO IMMEDIATELY GIVE ME THE FUCKING CODE, OTHERWISE HE WILL HAVE YOUR DEATH ON HIS CONSCIENCE!
NO, STOP! DON'T DO IT! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU!



PECQUEUR
&
MALFIN
SCHELLE

GENRE
ADVENTURE

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CHARACTERS

BANKS: Director of the most powerful pharma-ceutical company on the world and husband to his wife Jessica, lived on Golden City all his life. This City is a prestigious floating town inhabited only by rich.

MIFA, APPLE, SOLO AND KUMIKO: Orphans who were thown on the streets. Those four form a real family and their only possesion is the hut on the beach where they live.

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HISTORY

Unjustly condemned, Banks managed to prove his innocence. Back at Golden City, he is deepy marked by the death of Jessica. He found refuge for Mifa, Apple and Solo which revealed him their painful secrets... Meanwhile, professor Seed is kidnapped by mysterious commados...

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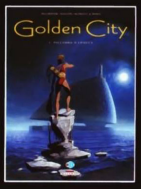
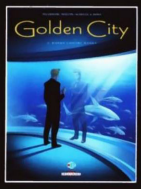
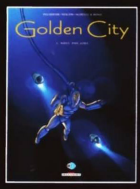
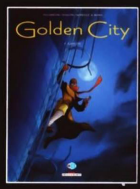
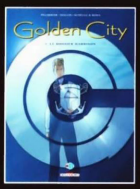
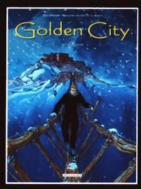
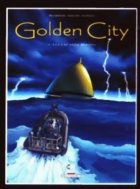
IN THE UNIVERSE OF

Golden City